



# PREVENTING MOLD

Keep mold out of your home  
after flooding and storms

## Safe and effective clean up:

- Open windows and doors to provide **fresh air**, or use **fans** to dry your home.
- Wear rubber gloves, eye protection, and a mask when cleaning.
- Use a **non-ammonia soap or detergent** to clean all areas. **Never** mix bleach with ammonia.
- Check out all **odors**. Find all mold sources and clean them properly.

## Steps to prevent mold growth:

- Remove all material such as plaster, drywall, paneling, flooring, insulation and other wet materials that are **below the water line**.
- **Discard wet items that can't be repaired** such as mattresses, carpet, rugs and padding, upholstered furniture, cosmetics, stuffed animals, toys, and books.
- Use a **HEPA vacuum** if available. If not, extract standing water with a pump or wet vacuum from slabs, crawl spaces, and anywhere water could be standing.
- If mold is visible after cleaning, more scrubbing or cleaning may be necessary.
- **Wipe surfaces with a sanitizer** (one cup of bleach to one gallon of water). Use mold-killing products, if possible.
- Keep **humidity level as low as possible** in the home. Air conditioning and dehumidifiers will help.
- To prevent future mold growth, dry affected areas as quickly as possible, within **24 to 48 hours**.

## Potential health effects of mold:

- The most common types of mold are generally not hazardous to healthy people.
- Others may experience **allergy-type symptoms** – runny nose, watery eyes, sneezing, and skin irritation.
- Mold may trigger **asthma symptoms** for some.

*Protect your family. Protect yourself. Prevent mold!*