

Post-flooding Cleaning Guidelines and Safety Information

An overabundance of moisture in your basement, whether from a flood or from gradual seepage through your walls and floor, can result in mold growth. If the basement has a musty smell, you probably have mold. Mold sometimes appears as a black film on surfaces such as block wall---a surface you'll find easier to clean than more porous materials such as wood or drywall.

- Always wear the following proper clothing when cleaning mold from wet basements:
 - N-95 respirator
 - Safety goggles without vent holes
 - Rubber gloves -
 - Long sleeve shirt
 - Pants
 - Rubber boots

- Open all doors and windows to allow for proper air ventilation while cleaning.
- Throw away any items that have been saturated in the flood water and cannot be cleaned. Porous items such as paper usually cannot be salvaged.
- First wash affected area/item with a mild detergent solution, such as laundry detergent and warm water. Allow to dry.
- Mix 1 cup of bleach with 1 gallon of water in a 5-gallon bucket.
- Wipe affected area/each item down with the bleach-water mixture. Use a sponge or mop to wipe floors, walls and other hard surface items with the mixture.
- Allow the affected areas/ items to dry.
- Last apply a borate-based detergent solution and **don't** rinse. This will help prevent mold from growing again. A borate-based laundry or dish washer detergent has "borate" listed on the ingredients label.
- Point oscillating and box fans towards the items to aid in the drying process.
- Run a dehumidifier to help remove moisture in the air and lower the chance of mold growth.