



SOLANO COUNTY
Department of Resource Management

Environmental Health Division

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How Do I Clean Up Mold?

Indoor mold exposure does not always present a health problem, however people who may be sensitive to mold exposure should not participate in mold removal. This includes anyone with an existing respiratory condition (allergies, asthma, etc.), is immune-compromised (undergoing chemotherapy or steroid therapy, has liver disease or HIV infection), or who is elderly or may be pregnant.

Rubber gloves and eye protection should be worn to help prevent exposure to mold and the cleaners used in mold removal. Cleaning up mold may release mold spores into the air. Consider wearing a respirator (N-95, available at local hardware stores), especially if the area to be cleaned is larger than what is commonly found around a bath tub.

1. Eliminate the Source

Mold requires moisture to grow. If possible, locate and eliminate the cause of moisture. Always use an exhaust fan and/ or open a window when showering or boiling foods on the stove. An isolated area of mold growth on a wall or ceiling can be due to a broken water pipe or a roof leak.

2. Remove Affected Materials

Items which are porous, such as those made of paper, fabric or leather, or building components such as drywall, wood products, carpeting, linoleum, or ceiling tiles, for example, are not cleanable and must be discarded. Wearing the protective equipment mentioned above, place the items into plastic bags and discard. Large items, such as sheets of drywall, should be wrapped in plastic sheeting before removal, to prevent exposing the rest of the house to mold spores.

3. Clean the Area

Hard surfaces, such as glass, tile, plastic or metal, are cleanable. Wearing the protective equipment mentioned above, use a non-ammonia soap or detergent, or a commercial cleaner, in hot water, and scrub the entire area affected by the mold. Use a stiff brush or cleaning pad on block walls or uneven surfaces. Rinse the area and allow it to dry completely. A wet-dry vacuum can help remove remaining water.

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When dry, disinfect the area with a chlorine-based household cleaner such as Tilex Mildew Remover or Clorox Cleanup, or with a mixture of 1 ½ cups of bleach per gallon of water. In order to completely kill the mold, the disinfectant must be allowed to dry naturally overnight.

Note: Never mix ammonia with bleach or chlorine-based cleaners- The vapors are toxic!!

Chlorine can burn the skin, and its vapors can irritate the eyes, nose and throat. Always make sure the working area is well ventilated and wear rubber gloves.

4. When to Hire Help

If the moldy area is larger than 2 feet by 2 feet, or if you begin to experience symptoms, you may want to stop and hire a consultant. Symptoms of mold exposure vary, but can include sore throat, runny nose, sneezing, eye irritation, cough, congestion, headache, or skin rash.

5. Who to Call

A listing of local consultants, testing labs and abatement companies is provided for your convenience. In addition, a search of your local phone directory can provide the following:

Carpet, Rug Upholstery Cleaners
Contractor Referral Services
Environmental Consulting Firms

Fire and Water Damage Restoration
Industrial Hygiene Firms
Pipe and Leak Locating Services

MOLD TESTING, CONSULTING AND ABATEMENT COMPANIES

Mold Abatement Firms

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|---|-------------------------|
| Cal Inc www.cal-inc.com | (707) 446-7996 |
| Custom Restoration: 1601 Enterprise Dr, Suite 5, Fairfield CA 94533 | (707) 428-1232 |
| Del Tech Environmental | (916) 784-0519 |
| Earthshine: 2324 Clubhouse Dr, Rocklin CA 95765 | (916) 769-1434 |
| Four-Star Restoration: jhidalgo@bayareafourstar.com | (510) 796-5900 |
| K2 Construction brock@k2env.com | (707) 568-1684 |
| Mobile Mold Detection Inc moldinspector@inreach.com | toll free(866) 349-6653 |
| Mold Remedies rwolf@moldremedies.com | (415) 716-8909 |
| Restoration Certified Specialists jcarlton@rcscares.com | (707) 570-0555 |
| Restoration Clean-Up | toll free(800) 500-4310 |
| Restoration Concepts | (707) 207-1827 |
| V&M Restoration: 2509 Del Monte St, Sacramento CA 95691 | toll free(877) 748-2636 |
| West Coast Environmental | (916) 852-7200 |

Site Testing and Consulting Firms

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| CIH Services: 718 Main St, Ste 100, Suisun CA 94585 | (707) 425-5899 |
| Custom Restoration: 1601 Enterprise Dr, Suite 5, Fairfield Ca 94533 | (707) 428-1232 |
| HB&T Environmental Inc. | (916) 446-0406 |
| Restoration Concepts | (707) 207-1827 |
| Restoration Consultants: www.restcon.com | (916) 736-1100 |

Mold Testing Laboratories

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| Digital Diagnostic Labs: 3249 Fitzgerald Rd, Rancho Cordova, 95742 | (866) 337-6653 |
| Micro Test Laboratories: 1832 Tribute Rd, Sacramento, 95815 | (916) 567-9808 |
| Environmental Microbiology Lab: 1800 Sullivan Ave, Ste 209, Daly City, 94015 | (650) 991-3436 |

Additional Information

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| U.S. EPA Indoor Air Quality Info: | www.epa.gov/iaq/ | (800) 438-4318 |
| CDHS Indoor Air Quality Section: | www.cal-iaq.org/mold/ | (510) 540-2476 |

Disclaimer

The Solano county Resource Management, Environmental Health Services Division provides this list of companies as an informational service. The Division and the County accept no responsibility for the performance of the consultants or companies listed and make no representation, either expressed or implied, regarding their competence or expertise.

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