

A flooded home can be the result of internal issues, such as plumbing failures, or external events like flooding. Regardless of the source of the water, it's important to take action to protect your loved ones, prevent health hazards, and save your home.

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED HOUSE WIDE...

When it comes to water damage, even minor issues should be addressed. Mold, which grows where there is moisture, can have a significant impact on indoor air quality and can cause serious health problems. Visible mold growth can be seen in as little as 24 hours. It's critical to be proactive and work on drying out your home within the first 48 hours after water damage first occurs.

The key to controlling a mold problem is to control the moisture.



RECOVERY PREP

- Before re-entry of your property, make sure it's safe with no structural, electrical, or other hazards.
- Be sure to contact your insurance company and take pictures of the property and your belongings.
- People with weak immune systems or breathing problems and children should stay away from potential moldy sites and should not take part in any cleanup work.
- Use caution when building materials or furniture have been affected by flooding.
- If any material has been wet for more than 24-hours, treat it as if mold is starting to grow.
- Contact a licensed mold inspection organization to complete the appropriate inspection and testing.
- If you see visible mold growth stop what you are doing. Any activity may disturb the contaminated material or mold area.

THE CLEANUP

1. Remove Standing Water

- Water removal equipment: a sump pump and a wet vac.
- In some cases, a pump can be used to remove water from the house.
- A wet vac can be used to remove residual water from floors, carpets, rugs, and other hard surfaces.

FACT

In addition to being a catalyst to mold growth, bacteria and microorganisms thrive in standing water. If the water is left standing, they can multiply and disperse into the air quickly, becoming a health hazard.

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FACT

Floodwaters may have been mixed with dirt, sewage, or other substances that can bring harmful contaminants into your home.

2. Ventilate

- Open windows, doors, and use fans if possible, to encourage airflow through a property and aid with the natural drying process.

***Note:** If you see or suspect that mold is already growing, do not use fans as they will aid in the spreading of mold spores.

3. Dehumidify

- Using a dehumidifier can help improve the air quality and prevent mold from developing.

***Note:** *The decision to ventilate vs. dehumidify will depend on your location, the weather, and your access to fans and dehumidifiers.*

Tip: *Be sure to close all windows and doors of the targeted space so the device will properly regulate the air.*

4. Sort Your Affected Belongings

- Dispose of items that can't be cleaned or dried.
- Be sure to thoroughly clean and dry out items that you can salvage and intend to keep.
- Seek professional drying or cleaning if necessary.

5. Dry out the Walls

- Mold can grow hidden inside the walls. It is essential to make sure that air circulation reaches these areas too.
- Cut small holes along the base of the affected wall to help dry the layers of the wall itself.
- If you observe mold growth when making these ventilation holes, do not make any new holes and limit the use of fans for drying as this can spread the mold spores over a wider area.

HIRE THE HELP YOU NEED

Drying out, cleaning, repairing, and restoring the damaged parts of your home might be too dangerous or difficult – and certainly, if you observe or suspect mold growth, you should take a step back. Luckily there are experienced qualified professionals to help. If you can, hire a mold inspector. Even without water damage, mold can grow unseen and unknown in a home.

Tip: There's often a conflict of interest, and we recommend checking to see if your state regulates remediation. This means the mold inspector and mold remediator cannot be from the same company. The bottom line is they are two different processes that should be kept separate to protect the best interest of the homeowner.

HOW CAN MOLD INSPECTION SCIENCES HELP RECOVER YOUR PROPERTY?

It's important to get rid of standing water and moisture as soon as possible. Confronting the damage head-on can help you prevent a mold issue keeping yourself and your loved ones healthy and safe. Our science-based inspection and testing services performed by our experienced and certified consultants help discover and pinpoint exactly the extent of the damage and what's going on with your property. We do not perform any mold remediation, but we will recommend the next steps to secure proper mold removal and can recommend third-party remediation contractors if needed.

If you have think you have mold in your home resulting from water intrusion, we can help you discover and pinpoint exactly what's going on with your property. Our science-based assessment and testing services are the best in the business.

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