

## DISASTER QUICK TIPS: MOLD

### Stay safe when you clean

Mold can grow within 12 to 24 hours after a flood. Mold can make some people sick, like when they have an allergy (stuffy nose, sore eyes).

Cover your skin. To clean mold, wear:

- An N-95 respirator on your face;
- Goggles over your eyes;
- Rubber gloves;
- Rubber boots; and
- Long sleeved shirt and pants.

Protect bare skin from mold and bleach.

***Be careful – bleach can burn skin!***

### Throw out water- soaked items

Throw out items that soaked up water. Wet items will grow mold that can make people sick. Furniture made with cloth, carpets and pads, drywall, wood paneling, pressed wood, and drywall grow mold when they are soaked. When in doubt – throw it out!

### Clean surfaces

Clean all surfaces touched by flood water or sewage. Use ¼ to ½ cup of bleach per gallon of water.

Clean surfaces that are not water – soaked. Examples are hard plastic, concrete, glass, and metal.

Do not mix bleach with soap or other products. See “Disaster Quick Tips: Using Bleach.”

### Dry home and items quickly

After cleaning, dry home and items quickly so mold will not grow. Open door and windows to move the air. Use fans and dehumidifiers.

### How dry?

Let surfaces dry until they are dry like similar surfaces that did not get wet. You may use a moisture meter to do this.

Drying can take a long time. You may need to wait months before redoing a basement. Mold may grow in the walls if you redo your basement while the walls or studs are still damp.

*Note: MDH has detailed fact sheets on these topics. See back page.*



Environmental Health Division  
PO Box 64975  
625 Robert Street North,  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Revised February 2013

**MDH Environmental Health Contacts:****Asbestos**

Asbestos and Lead Compliance: 651-201-4620

Web Site: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/asbestos](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/asbestos)

**Carbon Monoxide and Mold**

MDH Indoor Air Quality: 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

Email: [health.indoorair@state.mn.us](mailto:health.indoorair@state.mn.us)

Web Site: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air)

**Cleaning Up and Food Safety**

MDH Food, Pools, and Lodging: 651-201-4500

Email: [health.foodlodging@state.mn.us](mailto:health.foodlodging@state.mn.us)

Web Site: [www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety](http://www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety)

**Drinking Water****Public Water**

MDH Drinking Water Protection: 651-201-4700

Email: [health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us](mailto:health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us)

Web Site: [www.health.state.mn.us/water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/water)

**Wells and Well Water**

MDH Well Management: 651-201-4600 or 1-800-383-9808

Email: [health.wells@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wells@state.mn.us)

Web Site: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells)

**MDH Environmental Health Division Emergency Program Contacts:**

[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contacts.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contacts.html)

**MDH Environmental Health Flood information Web site:**

[www.health.state.mn.us/floods](http://www.health.state.mn.us/floods)

If you require this document in another format such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape, contact 651-201-5000 or 1-800-657-3908.  
For deaf or hard of hearing TTY: 651-201-5797



Environmental Health Division  
PO Box 64975  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Revised February 2013