

Mold & Moisture Issues

Does your home have?

- Stains or discoloration on your walls, ceiling, or furniture?
- A damp or musty smell?
- Water problems like a leaky roof or water in the basement?



What is mold?

Mold can grow almost anywhere: on walls, ceilings, carpets, or furniture. Humidity or wetness, caused by water leaks, spills from bathtubs or showers, or condensation, can cause mold to grow in your home.

Often called “mildew,” molds are related to mushrooms and yeast but are much smaller— we can only see or smell mold when there is a large quantity.

Can you always see mold?



Mold produces “spores,” tiny particles that float through the air. These spores are so tiny they cannot be seen with the naked eye.

Can mold affect your health?

Mold does not affect everyone. Different people are affected differently when mold is breathed or inhaled.

People who are allergic to mold may get:

- Watery eyes, runny or stuffed noses, itching, headaches, and may have difficulty breathing.
- Mold can also trigger asthma attacks.



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What can you do?

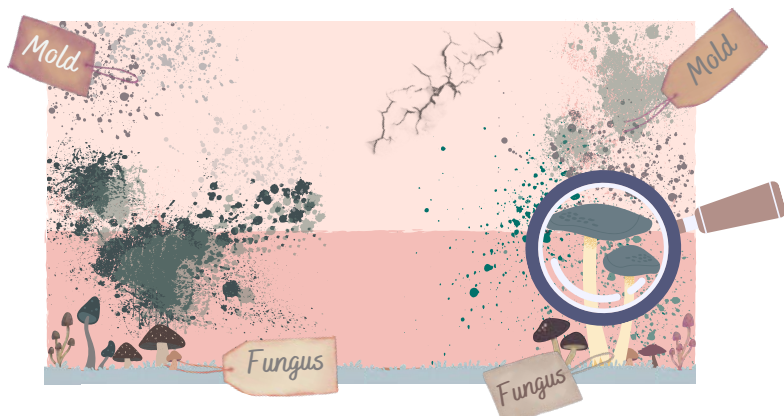
Prevent: keep your house clean and dry following steps to prevent and get rid of mold.

- Fix water problems such as roof leaks, wet basements, and leaking pipes or faucets.
- Make sure your home is well ventilated and always use ventilation fans in bathrooms and kitchens.
- If possible, keep humidity in your house below 50% by using an air conditioner or dehumidifier.
- Avoid carpeting in kitchens, bathrooms, and basements. Dry floor mats regularly.



Respond: fix any water problems immediately and clean or remove wet materials, furnishings, or mold.

- Clean up spills or floods within 1 day.
- Dry all surfaces and fix the problem or leak to prevent further damage.
- Install a dehumidifier where there is high humidity.
- Replace contaminated components, such as drywall and insulation.
- Clean mold off non-porous surfaces with a weak solution of bleach and water.
- Throw away moldy materials that cannot be cleaned, such as carpet, upholstered furniture, drywall, and floorboards.
- When cleaning mold, protect yourself by wearing long sleeves, pants, shoes, and rubber gloves, as well as goggles and a face-mask.
- If you find a large area of mold (larger than the top of a twin-sized bed) or are allergic to mold, consider hiring a professional to clean it and fix the cause of the problem.



Identify: find mold that might be growing in your home.

- Search for areas that have a damp or moldy smell, especially in basements, kitchens, and bathrooms.
- Look for water stains or colored, fuzzy growth on and around ceilings, walls, floors, window sills and pipes.
- Search behind and underneath materials such as carpeting, furniture, or stored items.
- Inspect kitchens, bathrooms, and basements for standing water, water stains, and patches of out-of-place color.