Mold can be removed from most items if you act quickly, clean the item and dry it quickly. If an item is expensive or has sentimental value, you may want to consult with a specialist. Consult with a professional to work in less crowded areas with less airflow and good lighting. Consult with a professional to work in a well-ventilated area that is free from mold.

For more information, read the Homeowner’s and Renter’s Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters. (https://www.astm.org/cdroms/astm_publications_pdf/57005700_59065336_59065336/sec57_01_021.pdf)

**Sources:**

**Reviewers:**
- Dr. Sarah Kelso, Professor and Department Extension Leader, North Carolina State University
- Dr. Claudette Perrot, Research Professor, Extension and Research Laboratory, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, LSU.
- Lisa S. Smith, Texas A&M University Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia
- Pamela M. Turner, Ph.D., Professor and Extension Housing & Indoor Environment Specialist, University of Georgia
- Michelle W. Taylor, Telfair County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia
- Dr. Claudette Hanks Reichel, Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.

**Health & Safety Tips When Using Bleach**

- Wear protective gear
- Use in a well-ventilated area
- Do not mix with acids, chlorine, or vinegar or lemon juice
- Read the label carefully;

**Removal of Mold Caused by Flooding**

Mold can grow within 24 hours after a flood, so it is important to start drying the area out as quickly as possible. Before starting the cleanup or cleaning process, take pictures of the damage and contact your insurance company.

Some items may need to be discarded if they cannot be cleaned and dried completely within 24 to 48 hours. When cleaning be sure to wear personal protective equipment. This includes a N95 or higher rated respirator, rubber gloves, and protective eyewear. Items should be cleaned with a damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent or cleaner. If the mold was caused by contaminated water, then the area should be disinfected with a solution of 1 cup of household chlorine bleach and 1 gallon of water. After using bleach, test the cleaning solution on an inconspicuous part of the item. If the surface could be damaged then use a mild disinfectant, such as hydrogen peroxide. Do not use bleach on melanin or near the eyes and condition your skin.

Cleaning the item and dry it quickly. If an item is expensive or has sentimental value, you may want to consult with a specialist. Consult with a professional to work in a well-ventilated area that is free from mold.

For more information, read the Homeowner’s and Renter’s Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters. (https://www.astm.org/cdroms/astm_publications_pdf/57005700_59065336_59065336/sec57_01_021.pdf)

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- Dr. Sarah Kelso, Professor and Department Extension Leader, North Carolina State University
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- Michelle W. Taylor, Telfair County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia
- Dr. Claudette Hanks Reichel, Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.
No exhaust fan in the kitchen or bathroom. Install and use exhaust fans vented to the outdoors when cooking and bathing. Unwetted dirty clothes. Check to make sure the dryer vent is connected and vents outside your home.

High humidity. The EPA suggests keeping indoor humidity below 50% relative humidity (RH), ideally between 30 and 50 percent. You can measure the RH if an inexpensive moisture or humidity meter usually available where hardware is sold.

Poorly ventilated closets. Remove at least one-third of the cloth in closets to help increase air circulation, and leave the closet door open or install a louvred door.

Poorly maintained, leaky and oversized air conditioning (AC) systems. Dusty wet coils can result in mold in ductwork, oversized AC units do not dehumidify adequately.

### 2. Drying Wet Materials:

This is very important when overflow or flooding has occurred. Using large fans along with dehumidifiers speeds up the drying process and reduces the risk of mold growth. If not available, run AC and heat the area at the same time to lower the RH of the air. If something cannot be dried within 48 hours, it should be discarded (if not connected and vented to outdoors when cooking and bathing. Unwetted dirty clothes. Check to make sure the dryer vent is connected and vents outside your home.

### 3. Removing Mold from Your Home:

If you find mold growth on building materials in your home, you may be able to tackle the area yourself. Some general guidelines to determine if this could be a DIY mold removal project are listed below.

- The area of mold growth is not extensive.
- The mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.
- You do not suspect that there is mold growth in the heating or cooling system of your house.
- You do not have any respiratory concerns.

#### DIY Mold Removal Guide

When cleaning or coming into contact with moldy items, it is important to take protective measures in order to minimize mold exposure. For further information, please refer to the EPA publication, A Brief Guide to Mold: Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes. The most common sources of moisture are leaks and high humidity. Humidity in your home may come from a variety of sources, including water in the crawl space, poor drainage around the house, a large quantity of plants indoors, a large aquarium, or using an unvented heater indoors.

**Removing mold**

1. Fix the moisture problem
2. Dry the area
3. Remove the mold with a damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent
4. Discard items contaminated with mold in sealed plastic bags
5. Items that are too large to be placed in a plastic bag should be wrapped with plastic and sealed with tape
6. The removal and cleaning process disturbs and can release mold spores from surfaces, so after completing the cleaning process, close windows and turn off all heating and cooling systems in your home. Open windows and use fans to pull airborne mold spores outside
7. After cleaning, try to get everything dry within 48 hours. Close windows and use dehumidifiers and fans to drop relative humidity to 30-50% to speed the drying process. If dehumidifiers are not available, use air conditioning and portable electric heaters at the same time.

#### Step 4: Check for Regrowth.

Regularly check the areas that you have cleaned or removed for mold growth, which can form again in 2-3 days. If mold reappears, it means that the moisture problem has not been properly taken care of. If this occurs you should:

- Close the area again.
- Quickly dry wet areas with fans and dehumidifiers.
- Check the area with a calibrated moisture meter.
- Do not replace insulation and wallboard until wood framing moisture content is 15% or lower. If the problem persists, the material should be removed and you may want to contact a professional water damage or mold restoration firm to remediate the problem.

#### Step 5: Close the Door on Mold.

Mold will take any opportunity to grow in your home. Make sure that you are always on the lookout for moisture problems, musty odors, and other signs that mold may be forming. Following mold prevention guidelines is the best safeguard against this unruly and potentially harmful guest.

### Mold Quick Facts

Use the UGA Extension Mold & Moisture Home Inspection Checklist (http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detailed.html?number=C1083) to find the sources of moisture in your home. The most common sources of moisture are leaks and high humidity. Humidity in your home may come from a variety of sources, including:

- Water in the crawl space, poor drainage around the house, a large quantity of plants indoors, a large aquarium, or using an unvented heater indoors.

**Removing mold**

1. Fix the moisture problem
2. Dry the area
3. Remove the mold with a damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent

**Preventing mold**

- Eliminate the sources of moisture
- Invest in a hygrometer to keep track of the indoor humidity. Keep it below 60 percent, ideally between 30 and 50 percent.

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**Ways to Keep Your Home Healthy**

1. Keep your home dry is the best way to prevent mold problems.
2. To learn more go to georgiahealthyhousing.org.
When cleaning or coming into contact with moldy items, it is important to take protective measures in order to prevent mold problems.

1. **Fix the moisture problem**
   - Fix any water leaks or poor drainage.
   - Address any issues with high humidity.
   - Ensure that your home is well-ventilated.

2. **Dry the area**
   - Use fans and dehumidifiers to dry the area.
   - Check the area again after 24-48 hours.

3. **Clean the area again**
   - Use a damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent to clean the area.

4. **Seal off the area**
   - Use plastic sheeting and tape to seal off the area.
   - Use a dehumidifier to keep the area dry.

5. **Ventilate**
   - Open windows and use fans to remove mold spores.

6. **Maintain**
   - Keep the area dry and well-ventilated.

**Mold Quick Facts**

1. Mold grows when there is moisture present.
2. Mold growth is not visible, even if the area appears to be dry.
3. Mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.
4. Mold may originate from sources outside your home.
5. Mold growth can be caused by poor ventilation or stagnant water.

**DIY Mold Removal Guide**

1. **Step 1: Put on protective equipment.**
   - Rubber gloves that extend to mid-forearm.
   - N95 or higher rated respirator that fits properly.
   - Protective eyewear without vents.
   - Respiratory protection that is approved and fit tested.
   - Glass or plastic safety goggles.
   - Nitrile gloves that extend to mid-forearm.
   - Non-slip footwear.

2. **Step 2: Seal off and ventilate the work area.**
   - Turn off any central air or heating systems in your home to reduce the spread of mold spores.
   - Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.
   - Open windows in the work area and place a fan in one window blowing to outdoors to pull spores outside.

3. **Step 3: Remove and dispose of moldy porous items; clean and speed dry salvageable materials.**
   - Discard items contaminated with mold in sealed plastic bags.
   - Items that are too large to be placed in a plastic bag should be wrapped with 6mil plastic and sealed with tape.
   - The removal and cleaning process disturbs and can release mold spores from surfaces, so after completing the cleaning process, be sure to ventilate the area well.
   - Open windows and use fans to pull airborne mold spores outdoors.
   - After cleaning, try to get everything dry within 48 hours.

4. **Step 4: Check for Regrowth.**
   - Regularly check the areas that you have cleaned or removed mold from.
   - If mold reappears, it means that the moisture problem has not been properly taken care of. If this occurs you should:
     - Close the area again.
     - Quickly dry wet areas with fans and dehumidifiers.
     - Check the area with a calibrated moisture meter.

5. **Step 5: Close the Door on Mold.**
   - Mold will take any opportunity to grow in your home. Make sure that you are always on the lookout for moisture problems, musty odors, and other signs that mold may be forming.
   - Follow mold prevention guidelines is the best safeguard against this uninvited and potentially harmful guest.

**Mold Removal Tips**

1. Remove mold from porous materials such as wood, cardboard, and paper.
2. Discard items contaminated with mold in sealed plastic bags.
3. If items are too large to be placed in a plastic bag, they should be wrapped with 6mil plastic and sealed with tape.
4. Use fans and dehumidifiers to speed up the drying process.
5. Ventilate the area well after cleaning to prevent the spread of mold spores.
6. Keep the area dry and well-ventilated.

**Mold Prevention Tips**

1. **Lead by example**
   - Keep your home dry is the best way to prevent mold problems.

2. **Dry Pest-Free Clean Contaminant-Free Safe Ventilated Maintained Green and Temperature Controlled**

3. **Keep your home healthy**

   - **DRIY:** Keep your home dry is the best way to prevent mold problems.
   - **PEST-FREE:** Eliminate pests and rodents.
   - **CLEAN:** Keep your home clean and free of clutter.
   - **CONTAMINANT-FREE:** Keep your home free of contaminants and toxins.
   - **SAFE:** Maintain a safe environment for all occupants.
   - **VENTILATED:** Ensure proper ventilation in your home.
   - **MAINTAINED:** Maintain your home regularly.
   - **GREEN:** Use environmentally friendly practices.
   - **TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED:** Keep your home at a comfortable temperature.

4. **8 WAYS TO KEEP YOUR HOME HEALTHY**

   - **Moisture Management**
   - **Ventilation**
   - **Cleanliness**
   - **Safe Materials**
   - **Maintained Conditions**
   - **Environmental Awareness**
   - **Temperature Control**
   - **Repairs and Maintenance**

**More information on rebuilding after a disaster, download the HUD Rebuild Healthy Homes Book or App.**

- **https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes**
- **https://www.georgiahealthyhousing.org**
- **Post-Disaster-Resources**

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**Step 1: Put on protective equipment.**

These items can be found in most hardware stores. Follow the instructions provided with each item to ensure proper use, so they provide the highest level of protection. Before beginning mold treatment and clean up, you should have on the following:

- Exhaust fan or local exhaust hood.
- Eye protection with side shields or goggles.
- Respirator or air-purifying respirator.
- Nitrile gloves that extend to mid-forearm.
- Non-slip footwear.
- N95 or higher rated respirator that fits properly.
- Protective eyewear without vents.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) that is approved and fit tested.

**Step 2: Seal off and ventilate the work area.**

- Turn off any central air or heating systems in your home to reduce the spread of mold spores.
- Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.
- Open windows in the work area and place a fan in one window blowing to outdoors to pull spores outside.

**Step 3: Remove and dispose of moldy porous items; clean and speed dry salvageable materials.**

- Discard items contaminated with mold in sealed plastic bags.
- Items that are too large to be placed in a plastic bag should be wrapped with 6mil plastic and sealed with tape.
- The removal and cleaning process disturbs and can release mold spores from surfaces, so after completing the cleaning process, be sure to ventilate the area well.
- Open windows and use fans to pull airborne mold spores outdoors.
- After cleaning, try to get everything dry within 48 hours.

**Step 4: Check for Regrowth.**

- Regularly check the areas that you have cleaned or removed mold from.
- If mold reappears, it means that the moisture problem has not been properly taken care of. If this occurs you should:
  - Close the area again.
  - Quickly dry wet areas with fans and dehumidifiers.
  - Check the area with a calibrated moisture meter.

**Step 5: Close the Door on Mold.**

- Mold will take any opportunity to grow in your home. Make sure that you are always on the lookout for moisture problems, musty odors, and other signs that mold may be forming.
- Follow mold prevention guidelines is the best safeguard against this uninvited and potentially hazardous guest.

**Mold Quick Facts**

- The mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.
- The EPA suggests keeping indoor humidity ideally between 30 and 50 percent.
- Poorly ventilated closets. Remove at least one-third of the clutter in closets to help increase air circulation, and leave the closet door open or install a louvered door.

**DIY Mold Removal Guide**

- If you find mold growth on building materials in your home, you may be able to tackle the area yourself. Some general guidelines to determine if this could be a DIY mold removal project are listed below:

  1. The area of mold growth is not extensive.
  2. The mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.
  3. You do not suspect that there is mold growth in the heating or cooling system of your house.
  4. You do not have any respiratory concerns.
  5. The mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.

**Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes.**

- Keep indoor humidity ideally between 30 and 50 percent.
- Incorrect ventilation and air circulation can promote mold growth.
- Use large fans along with dehumidifiers to speed up the drying process and reduces the risk of mold growing.
- If not available, run A/C and heaters at the same time.
- **Ceiling fans** can be turned off and vented to outdoors.
- **Exhaust fans** can be left running.
- **Open or install a louvered door.**

**Mold Prevention Guidelines**

- **Dry Pest-Free Clean Contaminant-Free Safe Ventilated Maintained Green and Temperature Controlled**

**Post-Disaster-Resources**

- **https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes**
- **https://www.georgiahealthyhousing.org**
- **Download the HUD Rebuild Healthy Homes Book or App.**

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**Post-Disaster-Resources**

- **To learn more go to**
  - **georgiahealthyhousing.org**
- **Post-Disaster-Resources**

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Step 1: Put on protective equipment.

- Rubber gloves that extend to mid-forearm.
- Protective eyewear without vents.
- N-95 or higher rated respirator that fits properly.

Step 2: Seal off and ventilate the work area.

- Turn off any central air or heating systems in your home to reduce the spread of mold spores.
- Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.
- Open windows in the work area and place a fan in one window blowing to outdoors to pull spores outside.

Step 3: Remove and dispose of moldy porous items; clean and speed dry salvageable materials.

- Discard items contaminated with mold in sealed plastic bags.
- Items that are too large to be placed in a plastic bag should be wrapped with (1) plastic and sealed with tape.
- The removal and cleaning process disturbs and can release mold spores from surfaces, so after completing the cleaning process, clean and speed dry salvageable materials.
- Place closed windows and use fans to pull airborne mold spores outdoors.
- After cleaning, try to get everything dry within 48 hours. Close windows and use dehumidifiers and fans to drop relative humidity to 30-50% to speed the drying process. If dehumidifiers are not available, use air conditioning and portable electric heaters at the same time.

Step 4: Check for Regrowth.

- Regularly check the areas that you have cleaned or removed for mold growth, which can form again in 2-3 days. If mold reappears, it means that the moisture problem has not been properly taken care of. If this occurs you should:
  - Clean the area again.
  - Quickly dry wet areas with fans and dehumidifiers.
  - Check the area with a calibrated moisture meter.

- Do not replace insulation and wallboard until wood framing moisture content is 15% or lower. If the problem persists, the material should be removed and you may want to contact a professional water damage or mold restoration firm to remediate the problem.

- Close the area again.
- Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.

DIY Mold Removal Guide

When cleaning or coming into contact with moldy items, it is important to take protective measures in order to minimize mold exposure. For further information, please refer to the EPA publication, A Brief Guide to Mold: Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes.

Mold Quick Facts

1. Fix the moisture problem.
2. Dry the area.
3. Remove the mold with a damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent.
4. Clean and speed dry salvageable materials.
5. Place the area of mold growth in sealed plastic bags.
6. Place the area of mold growth outdoors.
7. Turn off any central A/C or heating systems in your home to reduce the spread of mold spores.
8. Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.
9. Open windows in the work area and place a fan in one window blowing to outdoors to pull spores outside.
10. After cleaning, try to get everything dry within 48 hours.

Mold Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes: A Brief Guide to Mold: Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes.

Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes.

When cleaning or coming into contact with moldy items, it is important to take protective measures in order to minimize mold exposure. For further information, please refer to the EPA publication, A Brief Guide to Mold: Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes.

Keeping your home dry is the best way to prevent mold problems.
Mold can start growing within 24 hours after a flood, so it is important to start drying the area out as quickly as possible. Before starting the clean-up or has verified cause you may want to consult with a specialist. The most common damage is found in water and wood damage restoration, rug and carpet cleaning, furniture repair, and textile and art restoration work. Look for specialists who are affiliated with professional organizations.

### How to Clean Specific Items

#### Household Item Impact of Mold Cleaning Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Cleaning Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bamboo, Steel, Resin, etc.</td>
<td>Surface mold on hard flooring may be vacuumed with a HEPA vacuum, or removed with a soft brush, strip or scrape. Use a solution of cleaning-sodium hypochlorite or water and mild non-phosphate detergent or cleaner. If the mold was caused by water damage, it must be removed and replaced to prevent water stains from showing through.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upholstered Furniture or Mattresses</td>
<td>The item has sentenced tailor or wear in contact with clean, use a solution of cleaning-sodium hypochlorite or water and mild non-phosphate detergent or cleaner. Check it is clear to use.</td>
<td>Clean, use a HEPA vacuum and wipe with non-phosphate detergent or cleaner. Make sure the subfloor is dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Clothing and Furniture</td>
<td>Non-sponged if clean, checked under clean. Cleaned when mold growth is at first noticeable. Use a soft brush or cloth to clean the mold.</td>
<td>Use a solution of cleaning-sodium hypochlorite or water and mild non-phosphate detergent or cleaner. After removing moisture and dry thoroughly, there may be some discoloration or staining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Clothing and Furniture</td>
<td>Sponged if clean, checked under clean. Cleaned when mold growth is at first noticeable.</td>
<td>Use a solution of cleaning-sodium hypochlorite or water and mild non-phosphate detergent or cleaner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Mold can cause permanent damage to items.</td>
<td>Use a water-resistant vacuum to dry wet carpeting. Remove water-saturated carpet padding. Use cleaning sprays by using by brooms and small brushes. Treat carpets or upholstery with cleaning products. Use a moisture meter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to Clean Specific Items

- **Rug and Carpet Cleaning:**
  - Use a water extraction vacuum to dry wet carpeting. Rinse the area and remove saturated carpet padding. Apply a mold inhibitor to treated areas. If the water remains under the floor covering for less than a few hours, you may be able to restore it.

- **Drying Walls and Ceiling:**
  - After cleaning, provide lots of space around the item, and dry quickly using fans and less heat for less than 72 hours.

- **Leather Furniture:**
  - Use a water extraction vacuum to dry wet leather. Rinse the leather with a 50/50 mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol. Dry thoroughly then use a leather conditioner.

- **Clothing and Fabrics:**
  - After cleaning, hang to dry for less than 24 hours, but may be growing in the item.

- **Upholstered Furniture:**
  - If the frame is completely dry, it is a good idea to have an expert clean the upholstery to prevent water stains from showing through.

- **Ceramic, Laminate, Wood, Vinyl, Linoleum, Tile:**
  - Use a soft bristled brush or clean cloth to brush the mold spores off. Clean with a solution of water and non-phosphate detergent. If the damage was caused by sewage water, disinfect using a bleach and water solution. Dry thoroughly in a well-ventilated location, but not in direct sunlight, which may cause it to warp.

- **Drywall and trim:**
  - Use a water extraction vacuum to dry wet drywall and trim. After cleaning, provide lots of space around the item, and dry quickly using fans and less heat for less than 72 hours.

- **Upholstered furniture and Mattresses:**
  - If the item has structural water damage, it is damaged.

- **Wood, Laminate, Veneer, Hard surfacing (wood, laminate, veneer):**
  - If the frame is completely dry, it is a good idea to have an expert clean the upholstery to prevent water stains from showing through.

- **Household Item Impacts of Mold Cleaning Process:**
  - Items may need to be discarded if they cannot be cleaned and dried completely within 24 to 48 hours. When cleaning be sure to wear personal protective equipment. This includes a N95 or higher rated respiratory, rubber gloves, and protective eyewear. Items should be cleaned with a dry, damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent or cleaner. If the mold was caused by contaminated water, then the area should be disinfected with a solution of:
    - 1 cup of household chlorine bleach
    - 1 gallon of water

  - Before using bleach, test the cleaning solution on an inconspicuous part of the item. If the surface could be damaged then use a mild detergent solution, such as hydrogen peroxide. Do not use bleach on leather or on areas that are not conditioned.

  - After cleaning, provide lots of space around the item, and dry quickly using fans to circulate the air. Do not use bleach on leather or on areas that are not conditioned.

  - For more information, read the Homeowner’s and Renter’s Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters. (https://www.cdc.gov/mold/pdfs/homeowners_and_renters_guide.pdf)

- **Sources:**

- **Reviews:**

- **Key to controlling mold to eliminate the source of the moisture problem:**
  - Visible mold growth
  - Mold may appear in a variety of textures and colors
  - If the mold is visible as a discoloration, stain, or fuzzy growth
  - Moldy or musty odor
  - Water damage and discoloration around an area

  - Keep in mind that the first sign of mold might be the development of allergy-like symptoms. If you detect excess moisture or a musty odor, but do not see mold, be sure to check behind cabinets, and wallpaper, and under carpeting. These are common hiding places for mold. Do a complete inspection of your home using the UGA Mold and Moisture Checklist, available online at http://www.fcs.uga.edu/extension/home-publications.

Mold Removal Steps

1. **Fixing the Moisture Problem:**
   - Mold cannot grow without moisture. Listed below are some common causes and solutions to many household moisture problems.

   - Roof and plumbing leaks should be repaired quickly.
   - Overflow from tubs, toilets, or sinks needs to be cleaned up and dried out quickly.
   - Basements and crawl spaces need to be cleaned and dried out quickly.
   - Radiant heating systems need to be repaired quickly.
   - Fixing the moisture problem will help remove it from your home.

2. **Mold Cleaning Specific Items:**
   - If you find mold that is growing in your home, you will need to take steps to clean the mold, stop its growth and eliminate it from your home. Taking the following steps will help remove it from your home.

   - **Leather:**
     - Use a soft bristled brush or clean cloth to brush the mold spores off. Clean with a solution of water and non-phosphate detergent. After cleaning, hang to dry for less than 24 hours, but may be growing in the item.

   - **Upholstered furniture:**
     - If the item has structural water damage, it is damaged.

   - **Wood, Laminate, Veneer, Hard surfacing (wood, laminate, veneer):**
     - Use a soft bristled brush or clean cloth to brush the mold spores off. Clean with a solution of water and non-phosphate detergent. After cleaning, hang to dry for less than 24 hours, but may be growing in the item.

   - **Household Item Impacts of Mold Cleaning Process:**
     - Items may need to be discarded if they cannot be cleaned and dried completely within 24 to 48 hours. When cleaning be sure to wear personal protective equipment. This includes a N95 or higher rated respiratory, rubber gloves, and protective eyewear. Items should be cleaned with a dry, damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent or cleaner. If the mold was caused by contaminated water, then the area should be disinfected with a solution of:
       - 1 cup of household chlorine bleach
       - 1 gallon of water

     - Before using bleach, test the cleaning solution on an inconspicuous part of the item. If the surface could be damaged then use a mild detergent solution, such as hydrogen peroxide. Do not use bleach on leather or on areas that are not conditioned.

     - After cleaning, provide lots of space around the item, and dry quickly using fans to circulate the air. Do not use bleach on leather or on areas that are not conditioned.

     - For more information, read the Homeowner’s and Renter’s Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters. (https://www.cdc.gov/mold/pdfs/homeowners_and_renters_guide.pdf)

   - **Sources:**

   - **Key to controlling mold to eliminate the source of the moisture problem:**
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     - Keep in mind that the first sign of mold might be the development of allergy-like symptoms. If you detect excess moisture or a musty odor, but do not see mold, be sure to check behind cabinets, and wallpaper, and under carpeting. These are common hiding places for mold. Do a complete inspection of your home using the UGA Mold and Moisture Checklist, available online at http://www.fcs.uga.edu/extension/home-publications.

Mold gr...