

Cleaning Mold and Mildew

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reminds Maryland residents that after storms, floods and hurricanes, mold and mildew spores may be present in large amounts. These spores may cause allergic reactions, damage homes and household goods. Extensive mold in your home is a significant concern -- most everyone will be affected if enough spores are inhaled.

Some tips for effective cleaning of mold and mildew:

- Clean, disinfect and dry all affected areas. Use a non-ammonia soap (ammonia plus bleach will result in toxic fumes) or detergent and hot water to scrub contaminated areas.
- Bag and dispose of materials with moldy residue, such as rags, paper, leaves and debris. Hard-surfaced materials can be kept once they are cleaned and disinfected.
- Use a stiff brush on masonry walls and similar surfaces. Rinse with clean water. After cleaning, apply a solution of one cup of household bleach per one gallon of water and allow it to dry.
- Ventilate the area well before, during and after entering work area.
- Turn off utilities.
- Wear a paper mask, coveralls, waterproof gloves and goggles while cleaning.
- Clean yourself with disinfectant soap when you are done.
- Call in a licensed contractor if wall interiors and sub-flooring areas seem to be the source of the fungal problems.