



Mold and Flooding: Cleanup Tips and Guidance

Stay safe and healthy while cleaning after a flood!

THE WISCONSIN CONNECTION

Wisconsin is more likely to have a flood in the spring and during heavy summer rains.

Cleaning up after a flood poses many challenges, including how to clean and prevent mold growth.

Take these important steps to protect your health and the health of your family while cleaning up after a flood.

BEFORE YOU CLEAN:

Be Cautious



People with breathing problems, allergies, or weakened immune systems should avoid mold cleanup areas. Testing for mold is not necessary if mold is visible.

Air it Out



Dry and ventilate your home as much as possible within 24 to 48 hours. When electricity is safe, use fans and dehumidifiers. Keep portable generators 20 feet away from your home when in use.

Toss it Out



Remove and throw away damaged or wet furniture, carpeting, drywall, and household items that cannot be disinfected or dried. Take pictures for filing insurance claims.

WHILE YOU CLEAN:

Protect Yourself



Use proper personal protective equipment (mask, goggles, gloves) to protect your mouth, eyes, nose, and skin.

Don't Mix Cleaners



Do not mix products containing ammonia with bleach because this can create harmful vapors.

Scrub Surfaces



Scrub hard surfaces with water and bleach mixture: 1 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water. Rinse and dry.

Some cleanup jobs are too dangerous or challenging for homeowners. For a list of mold remediation contractors, visit:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mold

Floods pose many other dangers. For additional guidance on flooding hazards and recovery, visit:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/flood

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Indoor Air and Radon Program

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mold | June 2018

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health | Division of Public Health | P-02167

