



Mold in Water-Damaged Buildings

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As Floridians clean and repair their storm-damaged homes and buildings, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) urges everyone to take safety steps to avoid indoor air quality problems. Moisture that enters buildings from leaks or flooding quickens mold growth. Molds can cause disease, trigger allergic reactions and continue to damage materials long after the storm. Failure to control moisture and mold can present short and long-term health risks.

TO PROTECT AGAINST HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MOLD:

- Remove standing water from your home or office.
- Remove wet materials.
- If mold growth has already appeared, carefully remove or clean the moldy material.
- Consider using personal protective equipment when cleaning or removing mold, i.e., gloves and goggles.
- Individuals with known mold allergies or asthma should not clean or remove moldy materials.

Remember to not mix cleaners and disinfectants, as hazardous gases may produce toxic chemical reactions. Read and follow label instructions carefully. Open windows and doors to provide plenty of fresh air.

For more information about indoor air quality and mold growth, contact your county health department at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/public-health-in-your-life/county-health-departments/CHDlisting.html>, or visit DOH's mold page <http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-environments/mold/index.html>.