

Putting A Hold On Mold In Your Home

(NAPSA)—Have you ever walked into a room that has a musty or earthy odor? You might be smelling mold. Here is some information that will help you know what to do to remove mold and prevent it from returning.

What Conditions Invite Mold To Grow?

Mold growth is common in damp or water-damaged areas of the home. Some examples of circumstances that may contribute to mold growth include a flood in your home, a sewer back-up, an overflowing toilet, leaking pipes, roof leaks, window leaks, or humidifier use. Once materials become wet, mold can begin to grow within 24-to-48 hours.

Prevent Mold From Taking Hold

Following are several precautions to prevent water leaks and excessive moisture from causing a mold problem in your home:

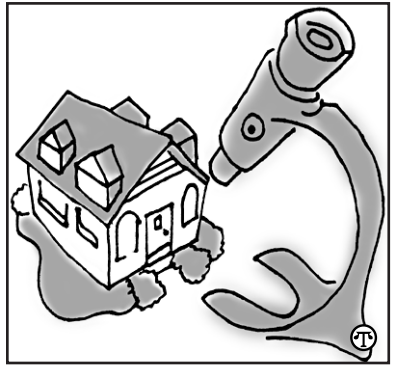
- Vacuum and clean regularly to remove possible sources of mold growth. Pay special attention to bathrooms and other areas of your home that are likely to generate a lot of moisture.

- Do not store materials such as paper, books or clothing in humid parts of your home.

- If you live in a house, make sure that your gutters and downspouts are clear of debris that may block the flow of water from your roof. Properly grade the area under your downspouts, so that rainwater from the roof flows away from your foundation.

- Check the grading of other areas around your foundation, so that rainwater does not flow toward the house.

- Plant gardens and shrubs away from your foundation, so that water does not flow toward your house when watering them individually or with a sprinkler system.



Take precautions to prevent water leaks and excessive moisture from causing a mold problem in your home. To learn more, visit www.MoldTips.com.

- Make sure that clothing dryers are vented to the outdoors.

- If you use a humidifier, check that it does not produce an excessive amount of humidity.

- Consider using a dehumidifier if you have a basement. The cool basement floor and walls can be a source of moisture build-up.

- Properly insulate and ventilate the attic of your home.

- Clean up and correct any water problems in your basement or crawl space as quickly as possible.

The growth of any type of mold in a home is never acceptable and may be symptomatic of a water or moisture problem. Your most prudent course of action is to clean it up and remove it from the home as soon as possible. Consider consulting a professional for more information and assistance if you feel it's necessary.

For more information about preventing and cleaning up household mold, visit www.MoldTips.com, a consumer information Web site provided by the National Association of Home Builders.