

Army Facilities Management Information Document on Mold Remediation Issues

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**ARMY FACILITIES MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
DOCUMENT ON
MOLD REMEDIATION ISSUES**

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ARMY FACILITIES MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON MOLD REMEDIATION ISSUES

Moisture Control: The Army Way to Mold Prevention!

INTRODUCTION

Concern about indoor exposure to mold has been increasing as the public becomes more aware that exposure to mold can cause a variety of health effects and symptoms, including allergic reactions.

This document provides the best and most current guidance for remediation of clean water damage (<48 hours) and mold contamination (>48 hours) into one resourceful Army guide. This guide has been designed to provide information to facilities management individuals who have little or no experience with mold remediation. It will assist them in making a reasonable judgment as to whether the situation can be handled in-house. It will help those in charge of maintenance to develop or evaluate an in-house remediation plan or evaluate a remediation plan submitted by an outside contractor. If an outside contractor is employed, they must have experience cleaning up mold. Check their references, and have them follow the recommendations presented in this document, EPA guidelines, and/or guidelines of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH). A multi-disciplinary team approach to mold concerns is best. A health and safety professional, such as an industrial hygienist, should be consulted prior to any remediation activities to assist in the project.

Molds produce tiny spores to reproduce. Mold spores float through the indoor and outdoor air continually. When mold spores land on a damp spot, they may begin growing and digesting whatever they are growing on in order to survive. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods. When excessive moisture or water accumulates indoors, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or uncorrected. There is no practical way to eliminate all molds and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.(1)

In all situations, the underlying cause of water accumulation must be rectified or mold growth will recur. Any initial water infiltration should be stopped and clean up began immediately. An immediate response (within 24 to 48 hours) and thorough clean up, drying, and/or removal of water damaged materials will prevent or limit mold growth. (Refer to [Appendix A](#) for detailed guidance on clean water damage response). If the source of water is elevated humidity, actions to maintain the relative humidity levels below 60% to inhibit mold growth should be taken (2). Emphasis should be on ensuring proper repairs of the building infrastructure, so that water damage and moisture buildup does not recur.

MOLD PREVENTION TIPS:

[Adapted from EPA, reference 1]

- Fix leaky plumbing and leaks in the building envelope as soon as possible.
- Watch for condensation and wet spots. Fix source(s) of moisture problem(s) as soon as possible.
- Prevent moisture due to condensation by increasing surface temperature or reducing the moisture level in air (humidity). To increase surface temperature, insulate or increase air circulation. To reduce the moisture level in air, repair leaks, increase ventilation (if outside air is cold and dry), or dehumidify (if outdoor air is warm and humid).
- Keep heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) drip pans clean, flowing properly, and unobstructed.
- Vent moisture-generating appliances, such as dryers, to the outside.
- Maintain low indoor humidity, below 60% relative humidity (RH), ideally 30-50%, if possible.
- Perform regular building/HVAC inspections and maintenance as scheduled.
- Clean and dry wet or damp spots within 48 hours.
- Don't let foundations stay wet. Provide adequate drainage and slope the ground away from the foundation.

REMEDIATION PLANNING

- Plan to dry wet, non-moldy materials within 48 hours to prevent mold growth ([Appendix A](#))
- Select cleanup methods for moldy items ([Appendix B](#))
- Select Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)- protect remediators ([Appendix B](#))
- Select containment equipment - protect building occupants ([Appendix B](#))
- Select remediation personnel who have the experience and training needed to implement the remediation plan and use PPE and containment as appropriate

REMEDiate MOISTURE AND MOLD PROBLEMS

- Fix moisture problem, implement repair plan and/or maintenance plan
- Dry wet, non-moldy materials within 48 hours to prevent mold growth ([Appendix A](#))
- Clean and dry moldy materials ([Appendix B](#))
- Discard moldy porous items that can't be cleaned ([Appendix B](#))

REMEDICATION PROCEDURES

Four levels of abatement are described below. The size of the area impacted by mold contamination primarily determines the type of remediation. The sizing levels below are based on professional judgment and practicality; currently there is not adequate data to relate the extent of contamination to frequency or severity of health effects. The goal of remediation is to remove or clean contaminated materials in a way that prevents the emission of mold and preventing dust contaminated with mold from leaving a work area and entering an occupied or non-abatement area, while protecting the health of workers performing the abatement. The listed remediation methods were designed to achieve this goal, however, due to the general nature of these methods it is the responsibility of the people conducting remediation to ensure the methods enacted are adequate. (3)

Non-porous (e.g., metals, glass, and hard plastics) and semi-porous (e.g., wood, and concrete) materials that are structurally sound and are visibly moldy can be cleaned and reused. Cleaning should be done using a detergent solution. Porous materials such as ceiling tiles and insulation, and wallboards with more than a small area of contamination should be removed and discarded. Porous materials (e.g., wallboard, and fabrics) that can be cleaned, can be reused, but should be discarded if possible. All materials to be reused should be dry and visibly free from mold. Routine inspections should be conducted to confirm the effectiveness of remediation work. (1 and 3)

The use of bleach or other biocides is questionable in most cases (8). The effectiveness of bleach in reducing living mold is dependent on concentration, residual chlorine levels, and contact time on the surface (8). All of these factors are difficult to control during remediation. Removal of all mold growth can generally be accomplished by physical removal of materials supporting active growth and thorough cleaning of non-porous materials (4). Therefore, application of a biocide serves no purpose that could not be accomplished with a detergent or cleaning agent (4).

The use of gaseous ozone or chlorine dioxide for remedial purposes is **not** recommended. Both compounds are highly toxic and contamination of occupied space may pose a health threat. Furthermore, the effectiveness of these treatments is unproven. For additional information on the use of biocides for remedial purposes, refer to the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists' document, "Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control."(4)

FOUR REMEDIATION LEVELS

[Adapted from NYCDOH Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments (3) and EPA (1)]

Level I: Small Isolated Areas – Total surface area affected less than 10 square feet - e.g., ceiling tiles, small areas on walls. Refer to [Appendix B](#) for detailed guidance.

Regular building maintenance staff can conduct this level of remediation. Such persons should receive training on proper clean up methods, personal protection, and potential health hazards. This training can be performed as part of a program to comply with the requirements of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200).

See [Appendix C](#) for PPE guidance. Respiratory protection (e.g., N95 disposable respirator), used in accordance with the OSHA respiratory protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134), is recommended(7). Gloves and goggles should be worn. All individuals must be trained, have medical clearance, and must be fit-tested by a trained professional before wearing a respirator.

The work area should be unoccupied. Vacating people from spaces adjacent to the work area is not necessary but is recommended in the presence of infants (less than 12 months old), persons recovering from recent surgery, immune suppressed people, or people with chronic inflammatory lung diseases (e.g., asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and severe allergies).

Containment of the work area is not necessary. Dust suppression methods, such as misting (not soaking) surfaces prior to remediation, are recommended.

Contaminated materials that cannot be cleaned should be sealed and double-bagged in 6-mil plastic bags and removed. Since there are no special disposal requirements for moldy materials, they can be discarded as ordinary construction waste.

The work area and areas used by remediation workers for egress should be cleaned with a damp cloth and/or mop and a detergent solution.

All areas should be left dry and visibly free from contamination and debris.

Level II: Medium – Total Surface Area affected between 10 and 100 square feet - e.g., several wallboard panels. (See [Appendix B](#) for detailed guidance).

The following procedures *at a minimum* are recommended:

Refer to [Appendix C](#) for proper PPE selection. Limited or Full protection may be required depending on the situation.

Refer to [Appendix D](#) for Containment procedures.

The work area and areas directly adjacent should be covered with a single layer of 6 mil fire-retardant polyethylene sheet(s) and taped before remediation, to contain dust/debris.

Seal ventilation ducts/grills in the work area and areas directly adjacent with 6 mil polyethylene sheeting. Use an exhaust fan with a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter to generate negative pressurization.

The work area and areas directly adjacent should be unoccupied. Further vacating of people from spaces near the work area is recommended in the presence of infants (less than 12 months old), persons having undergone recent surgery, immune suppressed people, or people with chronic inflammatory lung diseases (e.g., asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and severe allergies).

Dust suppression methods, such as misting (not soaking) surfaces prior to remediation, are recommended.

Contaminated materials that cannot be cleaned should be sealed and double-bagged in 6-mil plastic bags and removed. Since there are no special disposal requirements for moldy materials, they can be discarded as ordinary construction waste.

The work area and surrounding areas should be HEPA vacuumed (a vacuum equipped with a High-Efficiency Particulate Air filter) and cleaned with a damp cloth and/or mop and a detergent solution.

All areas should be left dry and visibly free from contamination and debris.

If abatement procedures are expected to generate a lot of dust (e.g., abrasive cleaning of contaminated surfaces, demolition of plaster walls) or the visible concentration of the mold is heavy (blanket coverage as opposed to patchy), then it is recommended that the remediation procedures for Level III be followed.

Level III: Large Area – Total Surface Area affected greater than 100 square feet or potential for increased occupant or remediator exposure during remediation is estimated to be significant. (See [Appendix B](#) for detailed guidance).

The following procedures are recommended:

Refer to [Appendices C & D](#) for PPE and Containment guidance.

Completely isolate the work area from occupied spaces using double layers of polyethylene plastic sheeting sealed with duct tape (including ventilation ducts/grills, fixtures, and any other openings).

Utilize an exhaust fan with a HEPA filter to generate negative pressurization. Provide airlocks and a decontamination room.

The work area and areas directly adjacent should be unoccupied. Further vacating of people from spaces near the work area is recommended in the presence of infants (less than 12 months old), persons having undergone recent surgery, immune suppressed people, or people with chronic inflammatory lung diseases (e.g., asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and severe allergies).

Contaminated materials that cannot be cleaned should be sealed and double-bagged in 6-mil plastic bags and removed. Since there are no special disposal requirements for moldy materials, they can be discarded as ordinary construction waste. The outside of the bags should be cleaned with a damp cloth and a detergent solution or HEPA vacuumed in the decontamination chamber prior to their transport to uncontaminated areas of the building.

The contained area and decontamination room should be HEPA vacuumed and cleaned with a damp cloth and/or mop with a detergent solution and be visibly clean prior to the removal of isolation barriers.

Pre- and post-remediation sampling may also be useful in determining whether remediation efforts have been effective. After remediation, the types and concentrations of mold in the indoor air samples should be similar to what is found in the local outdoor air(4). Since no Federal limits have been set for mold or mold spores, sampling cannot be used to check a building's compliance with Federal mold standards.

If any remediation sampling is deemed necessary contact your local industrial hygiene office or contact safety and health professionals with specific experience in designing mold sampling protocols, sampling methods, and interpretation of results. Sample analysis should follow analytical methods recommended by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) or the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH). The laboratory conducting the analyses should participate in the AIHA Environmental Microbiology Proficiency Analytical Testing (EMPAT) program.

Level IV: Remediation of HVAC Systems (See [Appendix B](#) for detailed guidance. For a small area (<10 ft²) follow Level I guidance for PPE and containment and for areas (>10 ft²) follow Medium (Level II) or when greater than 100 ft² follow Large (Level III) guidance for PPE and containment as discussed in Appendices B, C, and D)

A Small Isolated Area of Contamination (total surface area affected <10 square feet) in the HVAC System

The HVAC system should be shut down prior to any remedial activities.

Regular building maintenance staff can conduct this level of remediation. Such persons should receive training on proper clean up methods, personal protection, and potential health hazards. This training can be performed as part of a program to comply with the requirements of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200).

See [Appendix C](#) for PPE guidance. Respiratory protection (e.g., N95 disposable respirator), used in accordance with the OSHA respiratory protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134), is recommended (7). Gloves and goggles should be worn. All individuals must be trained, have medical clearance, and must be fit-tested by a trained professional.

The work area should be unoccupied. Vacating people from spaces adjacent to the work area is not necessary but is recommended in the presence of infants (less than 12 months old), persons recovering from recent surgery, immune suppressed people, or people with chronic inflammatory lung diseases (e.g., asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and severe allergies).

Containment of the work area is not necessary. Dust suppression methods, such as misting (not soaking) surfaces prior to remediation, are recommended.

Growth supporting materials that are contaminated, such as the insulation of interior lined ducts and filters, should be removed. Other contaminated materials that cannot be cleaned should be sealed and double-bagged in 6-mil plastic bags and removed. Since there are no special disposal requirements for moldy materials, they can be discarded as ordinary construction waste.

The work area and areas immediately surrounding the work area should be HEPA vacuumed and cleaned with a damp cloth and/or mop and a detergent solution.

All areas should be left dry and visibly free from contamination and debris.

Areas of Contamination (Total surface area affected >10 square feet) in the HVAC System

The following procedures are recommended:

The HVAC system should be shut down prior to any remedial activities.

Refer to [Appendices C & D](#) for PPE and Containment guidance.

Completely isolate the work area from other areas. Isolate the HVAC system using double layers of polyethylene plastic sheeting sealed with duct tape (including ventilation ducts/grills, fixtures, and any other openings).

Utilize an exhaust fan with a HEPA filter to generate negative pressurization. Provide airlocks and a decontamination room.

Growth supporting materials that are contaminated, such as the insulation of interior lined ducts and filters, should be removed. Other contaminated materials that cannot be cleaned should be sealed and removed in double-bagged 6-mil plastic. When a decontamination room is present, the outside of the bags should be cleaned with a damp cloth and a detergent solution or HEPA vacuumed prior to their transport to uncontaminated areas of the building. Since there are no special disposal requirements for moldy materials, they can be discarded as ordinary construction waste.

The contained area and decontamination room should be HEPA vacuumed and cleaned with a damp cloth and/or mop and a detergent solution prior to the removal of isolation barriers.

All areas should be left dry and visibly free from contamination and debris.

Pre- and post-remediation sampling may also be useful in determining whether remediation efforts have been effective. After remediation, the types and concentrations of mold in the indoor air samples should be similar to what is found in the local outdoor air (4). Since no Federal limits have been set for mold or mold spores, sampling cannot be used to check a building's compliance with Federal mold standards.

If remediation sampling is necessary contact your local industrial hygiene office or contact safety and health professionals with specific experience in designing mold sampling protocols, sampling methods, and interpretation of results. Sample analysis should follow analytical methods recommended by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) or the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH).

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

When mold growth requiring Level III or IV (large-scale) remediation is found, the building owner, management, and/or employer should notify occupants in the affected area(s) of its presence. Notification should include a description of the remedial measures to be taken and a timetable for completion. Well-planned group meetings held before and after remediation with full disclosure of plans and results can be an effective communication mechanism. Individuals seeking medical attention should be provided with a copy of all inspection results and interpretation to give to their medical practitioners (1 and 3).

CONCLUSION

In summary, the prompt remediation of contaminated material and infrastructure repair must be the primary response to mold contamination in buildings. The simplest and most expedient remediation that properly and safely removes mold growth from buildings should be used. Widespread contamination poses much larger problems that must be addressed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with a health and safety specialist. Effective communication with building occupants is an essential component of all remedial efforts. Individuals with persistent health problems should go to the local occupational health clinic or see their physicians for a referral to practitioners who are trained in occupational/environmental medicine or related specialties and are knowledgeable about these types of exposures.

REFERENCES

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*, EPA 402-K-01-001, March 2001.
2. American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. *Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality - ASHRAE Standard (ANSI/ASHRAE 62-2001)*. Atlanta, Georgia, 2001.
3. New York City Department of Health: *Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments*. New York: New York City Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental & Occupational Disease Epidemiology, (April 2000) January 2002.
4. American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH): *Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control*, edited by Janet Macher. Cincinnati, OH: ACGIH, 1999.
5. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Should You Have the Air Ducts In Your Home Cleaned?* EPA-402-K-97-002. October 1997.
6. Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC). *IICRC S500, Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration*, 2nd edition. 1999.
7. Occupational Safety & Health Administration. *Respiratory Protection Standard*, 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.134. 63 FR 1152. January 8, 1998.
8. American Industrial Hygiene Association, *Report of Microbial Growth Task Force*, AIHA Press, Fairfax, VA, May 2001.

APPENDIX A

[Source: EPA 402-K-01-001: Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings, March 2001]

Water Damage Cleanup and Mold Prevention

[Appendix A](#) presents strategies to respond to water damage within 24-48 hours. These guidelines are designed to help avoid the need for remediation of mold growth by taking quick action before growth starts. If mold growth is found on the materials listed in [Appendix A](#), refer to [Appendix B](#) for guidance on remediation. Depending on the size of the area involved and resources available, professional assistance may be needed to dry an area quickly and thoroughly.

Water Damage - Cleanup and Mold Prevention	
Guidelines for Response to Clean Water Damage within 24-48 Hours to Prevent Mold Growth [£]	
Water-Damaged Material[†]	Actions
Books and papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For non-valuable items, discard books and papers. • Photocopy valuable/important items, discard originals. • Freeze (in frost-free freezer or meat locker) or freeze-dry.
Carpet and backing - dry within 24-48 hours[§]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove water with water extraction vacuum. • Reduce ambient humidity levels with dehumidifier. • Accelerate drying process with fans.
Ceiling tiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard and replace.
Cellulose insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard and replace.
Concrete or cinder block surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove water with water extraction vacuum. • Accelerate drying process with dehumidifiers, fans, and/or heaters.
Fiberglass insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard and replace.

<p>Hard surface, porous floorings (Linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary. • Check to make sure under flooring is dry; dry under flooring if necessary.
<p>Non-porous, hard surfaces (Plastics, metals)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary.
<p>Upholstered furniture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove water with water extraction vacuum. • Accelerate drying process with dehumidifiers, fans, and/or heaters. • May be difficult to completely dry within 48 hours. If the piece is valuable, you may wish to consult a restoration/water damage professional who specializes in furniture.
<p>Wallboard (Drywall and gypsum board)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be dried in place if there is no obvious swelling and the seams are intact. If not, remove, discard, and replace. • Ventilate the wall cavity, if possible.
<p>Window drapes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow laundering or cleaning instructions recommended by the manufacturer.
<p>Wood surfaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove moisture immediately and use dehumidifiers, gentle heat, and fans for drying. (Use caution when applying heat to hardwood floors.) • Treated or finished wood surfaces may be cleaned with mild detergent and clean water and allowed to dry. • Wet paneling should be pried away from wall for drying

£ If mold growth has occurred or materials have been wet for more than 48 hours, consult Appendix B. Even if materials are dried within 48 hours, mold growth may have occurred. Professionals may test items if there is doubt. Note that mold growth will not always occur after 48 hours; this is only a guideline.

These guidelines are for damage caused by clean water. If you know or suspect that the water source is contaminated with sewage, or chemical or biological pollutants, then OSHA may have requirements for Personal Protective Equipment and containment. An experienced professional should be consulted if you and/or your remediators do not have expertise remediating in contaminated water situations. Do not use fans before determining that the water is clean or sanitary.

† If a particular item(s) has high monetary or sentimental value, you may wish to consult a restoration/water damage specialist.

§ The subfloor under the carpet or other flooring material must also be cleaned and dried. See the appropriate section of this table for recommended actions depending on the composition of the subfloor.

APPENDIX B

[Adapted from EPA 402-K-01-001, March 2001]

Mold Remediation Guidelines

Appendix B presents remediation guidelines for building materials that have or are likely to have mold growth. The guidelines in Appendix B are designed to protect the health of occupants and cleanup personnel during remediation. These guidelines are based on the area and type of material affected by water damage and/or mold growth. Please note that these are guidelines; some professionals may prefer other cleaning methods.

If you are considering cleaning your ducts as part of your remediation plan, you should consult EPA's publication entitled, *Should You Have the Air Ducts In Your Home Cleaned?* (5) Although this EPA document has a residential focus, the same concept applies to other building types. If possible, remediation activities should be scheduled during off-hours when building occupants are less likely to be affected.

Although the level of personal protection suggested in these guidelines is based on the total surface area contaminated and the potential for remediator and/or occupant exposure, professional judgment should always play a part in remediation decisions. These remediation guidelines are based on the size of the affected area to make it easier for remediators to select appropriate techniques, not on the basis of health effects or research showing there is a specific method appropriate at a certain number of square feet. The guidelines have been designed to help construct a remediation plan. The remediation manager will then use professional judgment and experience to adapt the guidelines to particular situations. When in doubt, caution is advised. Consult an experienced mold remediator for more information.

Guidelines for Remediating Building Materials with Mold Growth Caused by Clean Water*			
Material or Furnishing Affected	Cleanup Methods†	Personal Protective Equipment	Containment
SMALL - Total Surface Area Affected Less Than 10 square feet (ft²)			
Books and papers	3	Minimum N-95 respirator, gloves, and goggles	None required
Carpet and backing	1, 3		
Concrete or cinder block	1, 3		
Hard surface, porous flooring (linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl)	1, 2, 3		
Non-porous, hard surfaces (plastics, metals)	1, 2, 3		
Upholstered furniture & drapes	1, 3		
Wallboard (drywall and gypsum board)	3		
Wood surfaces	1, 2, 3		

MEDIUM - Total Surface Area Affected Between 10 and 100 ft²			
Books and papers	3	<p>Limited or Full</p> <p>Use professional judgment, consider potential for remediator exposure and size of contaminated area</p>	<p>Limited</p> <p>Use professional judgment, consider potential for remediator/occupant exposure and size of contaminated area</p>
Carpet and backing	1,3,4		
Concrete or cinder block	1,3		
Hard surface, porous flooring (linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl)	1,2,3		
Non-porous, hard surfaces (plastics, metals)	1,2,3		
Upholstered furniture & drapes	1,3,4		
Wallboard (drywall and gypsum board)	3,4		
Wood surfaces	1,2,3		
LARGE - Total Surface Area Affected Greater Than 100 ft² or Potential for Increased Occupant or Remediator Exposure During Remediation Estimated to be Significant			
Books and papers	3	<p>Full</p> <p>Use professional judgment, consider potential for remediator/occupant exposure and size of contaminated area</p>	<p>Full</p> <p>Use professional judgment, consider potential for remediator exposure and size of contaminated area</p>
Carpet and backing	1,3,4		
Concrete or cinder block	1,3		
Hard surface, porous flooring (linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl)	1,2,3,4		
Non-porous, hard surfaces (plastics, metals)	1,2,3		
Upholstered furniture & drapes	1,2,4		
Wallboard (drywall and gypsum board)	3,4		
Wood surfaces	1,2,3,4		
<p>*Use professional judgment to determine prudent levels of Personal Protective Equipment and containment for each situation, particularly as the remediation site size increases and the potential for exposure and health effects rises. Assess the need for increased Personal Protective Equipment, if, during the remediation, more extensive contamination is encountered than was expected. Consult Appendix A if materials have been wet for less than 48 hours, and mold growth is not apparent. These guidelines are for damage caused by clean water. If you know or suspect that the water source is contaminated with sewage, or chemical or biological pollutants, then the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires PPE and containment. An experienced professional should be consulted if you and/or your remediators do not have expertise in remediating contaminated water situations.</p> <p>†Select method most appropriate to situation. Since molds gradually destroy the things they grow on, if mold growth is not addressed promptly, some items may be damaged such that cleaning will not restore their original appearance. If mold growth is heavy and items are valuable or important, you may wish to consult a restoration/water damage/remediation expert. Please note that these are guidelines; other cleaning methods may be preferred by some professionals.</p>			

Cleanup Methods

- **Method 1:** Wet vacuum (in the case of porous materials, some mold spores/fragments will remain in the material but will not grow if the material is completely dried). Steam cleaning may be an alternative for carpets and some upholstered furniture.
- **Method 2:** Damp-wipe surfaces with plain water or with water and detergent solution (except wood —use wood floor cleaner); scrub as needed.
- **Method 3:** High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) vacuum after the material has been thoroughly dried. Dispose of the contents of the HEPA vacuum in well-sealed plastic bags.
- **Method 4:** Discard - Remove water-damaged materials and seal in plastic bags while inside of containment, if present. Dispose of as normal waste. HEPA vacuum area after it is dried.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Minimum: Gloves, N-95 respirator, goggles/eye protection
- Limited: Gloves, N-95 respirator or half-face respirator with HEPA filter, disposable overalls, goggles/eye protection
- Full: Gloves, disposable full body clothing, head gear, foot coverings, full-face respirator with HEPA filter

Containment

- Limited: Use polyethylene-sheeting ceiling to floor around affected area with a slit entry and covering flap; maintain area under negative pressure with HEPA filtered fan unit. Block supply and return air vents within containment area.
- Full: Use two layers of fire-retardant polyethylene sheeting with one airlock chamber. Maintain area under negative pressure with HEPA filtered fan exhausted outside of building. Block supply and return air vents within containment area.

Table developed from literature and remediation documents including Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control (American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 1999) (4) and IICRC S500, Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration, (Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration, 1999) (6)

APPENDIX C

[Adapted Source: EPA 402-K-01-001: Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings, March 2001]

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Skin and Eye Protection

Gloves are required to protect the skin from contact with mold allergens (and in some cases mold toxins) and from potentially irritating cleaning solutions. Long gloves that extend to the middle of the forearm are recommended. The glove material should be selected based on the type of materials being handled. If you are using a strong cleaning solution, you should select gloves made from natural rubber, neoprene, nitrile, polyurethane, or polyvinyl chloride (PVC). If you are using a mild detergent or plain water, ordinary household rubber gloves may be used. To protect your eyes, use properly fitted goggles or a full-face respirator with HEPA filter. Goggles must be designed to prevent the entry of dust and small particles. Safety glasses or goggles with open vent holes are not acceptable.

Respiratory Protection

Respirators protect cleanup workers from inhaling airborne mold, mold spores, and dust. Respiratory protection used in accordance with the OSHA respiratory protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134), is recommended(7). All individuals must be trained, have medical clearance, and must be fit-tested by a trained professional before wearing a respirator.

- **Minimum:** When cleaning up a small area affected by mold, you should use an N-95 respirator. This device covers the nose and mouth, will filter out 95% of the particulates that pass through the filter. In situations where a full-face respirator is in use, additional eye protection is not required.
- **Limited:** Limited PPE includes use of a half-face or full-face air-purifying respirator (APR) equipped with a HEPA filter cartridge. These respirators filter mold particles in the air. Note that half-face APRs do not provide eye protection. In addition, the HEPA filters do not remove vapors or gases. You should always use respirators approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- **Full:** In situations in which high levels of airborne dust or mold spores are likely or when intense or long-term exposures are expected (e.g., the cleanup of large areas of contamination), a full-face, powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) is recommended. Full-face PAPRs use a blower to force air through a HEPA filter. The HEPA-filtered air is supplied to a mask that covers the entire face or a hood that covers the entire head. The positive pressure within the mask or hood prevents unfiltered air from entering through penetrations or gaps. Individuals must be trained to use their respirators before they begin remediation.

Disposable Protective Clothing

Disposable clothing is recommended during a medium or large remediation project to prevent the transfer and spread of mold to clothing and to eliminate skin contact with mold.

- Limited: Disposable paper overalls can be used.
- Full: Mold-impervious disposable head and foot coverings, and a body suit made of a breathable material, such as TYVEK®, should be used. All gaps, such as those around ankles and wrists, should be sealed (many remediators use duct tape to seal clothing).

APPENDIX D

[Source: EPA 402-K-01-001: Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings, March 2001]

CONTAINMENT GUIDANCE

Containment

The purpose of containment during remediation activities is to limit release of mold into the air and surroundings, in order to minimize the exposure of remediators and building occupants to mold. Mold and moldy debris should not be allowed to spread to areas in the building beyond the contaminated site.

The two types of containment recommended in [Appendix B](#) are limited and full. The larger the area of moldy material, the greater the possibility of human exposure and the greater the need for containment. In general, the size of the area helps determine the level of containment. However, a heavy growth of mold in a relatively small area could release more spores than a lighter growth of mold in a relatively large area. Choice of containment should be based on professional judgment. The primary object of containment should be to prevent occupant and remediation exposure to mold.

Containment Tips

- Always maintain the containment area under negative pressure.
- Exhaust fans to outdoors and ensure that adequate makeup air is provided.
- If the containment is working, the polyethylene sheeting should billow inwards on all surfaces. If it flutters or billows outward, containment has been lost, and you should find and correct the problem before continuing your remediation activities.

Limited Containment

Limited containment is generally recommended for areas involving between 10 and 100 square feet (ft²) of mold contamination. The enclosure around the moldy area should consist of a single layer of 6-mil, fire-retardant polyethylene sheeting. The containment should have a slit entry and covering flap on the outside of the containment area. For small areas, the polyethylene sheeting can be affixed to floors and ceilings with duct tape. For larger areas, a steel or wooden stud frame can be erected and polyethylene sheeting attached to it. All supply and air vents, doors, chases, and risers within the containment area must be sealed with polyethylene sheeting to minimize the migration of contaminants to other parts of the building. Heavy mold growth on ceiling tiles may impact HVAC systems if the space above

the ceiling is used as a return air plenum. In this case, containment should be installed from the floor to the ceiling deck, and the filters in the air-handling units serving the affected area may have to be replaced once remediation is finished.

The containment area must be maintained under negative pressure relative to surrounding areas. This will ensure that contaminated air does not flow into adjacent areas. This can be done with a HEPA-filtered fan unit exhausted outside of the building. For small, easily contained areas, an exhaust fan ducted to the outdoors can also be used. The surfaces of all objects removed from the containment area should be remediated/cleaned prior to removal. The remediation guidelines outlined in [Appendix B](#) can be implemented when the containment is completely sealed and is under negative pressure relative to the surrounding area.

Full Containment

Full containment is recommended for the cleanup of mold-contaminated surface areas greater than 100 ft² or in any situation in which it appears likely that the occupant space would be further contaminated without full containment. Double layers of polyethylene should be used to create a barrier between the moldy area and other parts of the building. A decontamination room or airlock should be constructed for entry into and exit from the remediation area. The entryways to the airlock from the outside and from the airlock to the main containment area should consist of a slit entry with covering flaps on the outside surface of each slit entry. The chamber should be large enough to hold a waste container and allow a person to put on and remove PPE. All contaminated PPE, except respirators, should be placed in a sealed bag while in this chamber. Respirators should be worn until remediators are outside the decontamination chamber. PPE must be worn throughout the final stages of HEPA vacuuming and damp-wiping of the contained area. PPE must also be worn during HEPA vacuum filter changes or cleanup of the HEPA vacuum.

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