

# After the Storm- Mold and Moisture Cleanup

## A Guide for Your Safety

**Step 1**  
Is it safe for me to engage in cleanup?

Assess your health risk * see reverse side		
None Known	Some Risk	High Risk
Okay to work all sizes of cleanup and dust generation	Okay to work small and medium size mold contamination with minimal dust generation	<b>Do not</b> engage in cleanup Do not occupy structure during cleanup
Health Risk Color <span style="color: green;">●</span>	Health Risk Color <span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	Health Risk Color <span style="color: red;">●</span>

**Once you assess your health risk color, follow the color through down the page to determine safe work practices for you**

**Step 2**  
What types of environments can I safely work in?

Assess size of mold contamination ** see reverse side		
<span style="color: green;">●</span> or <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> <b>Small</b> <30 square feet About the size of a dining room table for 8 people	<span style="color: green;">●</span> or <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> <b>Medium</b> 30-100 square feet About the size of one side of a panel truck	<span style="color: green;">●</span> <b>Large</b> >100 square feet Child's bedroom or small office (10 x 10)

Assess dust generation			
<span style="color: green;">●</span> or <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> <b>None</b> Ex. observing from outside damaged area	<span style="color: green;">●</span> or <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> <b>Minimal</b> Ex. inspecting; wet wiping; recovering moldy personal items	<span style="color: green;">●</span> <b>Moderate</b> Ex. sweeping, removing moldy building materials	<span style="color: green;">●</span> <b>Severe</b> Ex. Demolishing building materials; using power tools
No Controls	Level 1 work practices	Level 2 work practices	Level 3 work practices

**Step 3**  
What safe work practices should I use?

Use appropriate work practices			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Work Area Preparation	← Remove occupants from work area →	← AND adjacent areas →	← AND adjacent areas →
	← Remove sensitive occupants →		
	← Seal vent ducts/ grills with plastic sheeting →		
	← Open windows or use exhaust →		← Exhaust air from work area to outside through HEPA filter. Construct airlock and decontamination chamber →
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	← N, R or P-95 Respirator (minimum) →		← Full-face elastomeric air purifying or powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) with P100 cartridges →
	← Long Sleeve Rubber Gloves →		
	← Unvented Goggles →		
	← Disposable Coveralls with hood and booties →		← with hood and booties →
Work Practices	← Respirator medical clearance and fit test (OSHA requirement for employees) →		
	← Respirator user seal check →		
	← Mist mold with soapy water →		
	← Minimize dust generation →		
	← Put debris in plastic bag →		
	← Seal bag and remove outdoors →		
	← HEPA vacuum dust →		
	← Wet wipe surfaces →		
	← Dry area with fan →		
	← Do not eat, drink or smoke in work area →		
	<b>Order of Removal</b>		
	← 1st: coveralls, 2nd: gloves, 3rd: goggles, 4th: respirator →		
	<b>Location of Removal</b>		
PPE Handling	← At the worksite, preferably outdoors →		
	<b>Reuse and Disposal</b>		
	← Disposable coveralls and disposable respirators are to be discarded after use →		
	← Goggles and gloves may be washed with mild detergent and warm water, dried and reused →		
	← Full-face elastomeric and PAPR respirator cartridges can be reused →		
	← Elastomeric and PAPR face pieces are to be washed in mild detergent and warm water, dried and reused →		
	← When not in use, respirators are to be placed in a sealed plastic bag →		
Personal Hygiene	← Wash entire body thoroughly (including hair, scalp and nails) →		

\*We suggest that individuals determine their individual health risk in conjunction with their health provider well in advance of a severe weather event. Considerations include cardiac and respiratory status, allergies, age and immune response status.

General guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for determining health risk and for selecting personal protective equipment - *Population-Specific Recommendations for Protection From Exposure to Mold in Flooded Buildings by Specific Activity and Risk Factor*- can be accessed at [http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/report/pdf/2005\\_moldtable5.pdf](http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/report/pdf/2005_moldtable5.pdf). This chart provides population based criteria that would be helpful to health providers and individuals in discussions about personal health risks.

\*\* This flow chart provides guidance for workers, volunteers, and homeowners faced with cleaning up homes and buildings after flooding from severe storms. For general guidance in assessing the size of mold contamination please refer to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/environmental/moldrpt1.shtml>), the Environmental Protection Agency's A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home (<http://www.epa.gov/mold/cleanupguidelines.html>), and the Environmental Protection Agency's Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings ([http://www.epa.gov/mold/mold\\_remediation.html](http://www.epa.gov/mold/mold_remediation.html)).

According to the New York City Department of Health the suggested cut off is:

Small Isolated Areas (10 square feet or less) – e.g. ceiling tiles, small areas on walls

Medium-Sized Isolated Areas (10 – 100 square feet)

Large Areas (greater than 100 square feet in a contiguous area) – e.g. on separate walls in a single room

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For questions or additional information please contact :

Paula Schenck at 860-679-2368 or [schenck@uchc.edu](mailto:schenck@uchc.edu)

Paul Bureau at 860-486-0040 or [paul.bureau@uconn.edu](mailto:paul.bureau@uconn.edu)

Kelly Wallace at 860-679-2971 or [kewallace@uchc.edu](mailto:kewallace@uchc.edu)

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