

# Quick Tips: Mold Prevention Checklist

## ACT QUICKLY TO PREVENT MOLD

Mold growing on building materials and home furnishings is a common hazard after floods. It may cause serious health problems and economic hardship. Mold can begin to grow within 24 hours on items that contacted floodwater. To avoid or reduce mold problems, find and fix the conditions that allow mold to grow. Early action to prevent mold problems can protect health and save money.

### Plan and track your work

Use the first list to decide what should be removed and thrown out.

The second list shows items that might be saved if cleaned and dried quickly.

### Throw out

Remove and throw away these items if they are water soaked:

- Carpet and pad
- Linoleum or laminate flooring
- Sub-floor/underlayment (pressed –wood paneling on walls or ceilings
- Insulation
- Upholstered or particle board furniture
- Ceiling tiles
- Wall paper, inexpensive wall coverings
- Paper materials
- Non-metal materials in ductwork
- Anything else that has soaked up water

### Keep and clean

If structurally sound, the following may be cleaned, disinfected and dried:

- Flooring – stone, tile, vinyl, concrete, wood, rubber
- Subfloor/underlayment – concrete or solid wood
- Walls – concrete, brick, solid wood, lathe and plaster
- Furniture – wood, metal, plastic, glass
- Laminated furniture if undamaged
- Foam insulation
- Unlined, uninsulated metal ductwork

**NOTE: MDH HAS DETAILED FACT SHEETS ON THESE TOPICS. SEE BACK PAGE.**

## MDH Environmental Health flood information

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/floods](http://www.health.state.mn.us/floods)

## MDH Environmental Health contacts

[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contacts](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contacts)

### MDH DISTRICT OFFICES

- Bemidji 218-308-2100
- Duluth 218-302-6166
- Fergus Falls 218-332-5150
- Mankato 507-344-2700
- Marshall 507-476-4220
- Metro 651-201-4500
- Rochester 507-206-2700
- St. Cloud 320-223-7300

## Asbestos

### Asbestos and Lead Compliance:

651-201-4620

Email: [health.asbestos-lead@state.mn.us](mailto:health.asbestos-lead@state.mn.us)

Websites: [www.health.state.mn.us/asbestos](http://www.health.state.mn.us/asbestos)

[www.health.state.mn.us/lead](http://www.health.state.mn.us/lead)

## Carbon monoxide and mold

### MDH Indoor Air Quality:

651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

E-mail: [health.indoorair@state.mn.us](mailto:health.indoorair@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air)

## Cleaning up and food safety

### MDH Food, Pools, and Lodging:

651-201-4500

E-mail: [health.foodlodging@state.mn.us](mailto:health.foodlodging@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety](http://www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety)

## Public drinking water

### MDH Drinking Water Protection:

651-201-4700

E-mail: [health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us](mailto:health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/water)

## Wells and well water

### MDH Well Management:

651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808

E-mail: [health.wells@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wells@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells)

*To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-5000 or 1-800-657-3908*

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