

# got mold?

## The TG's Report



# TG's

## CARPET CLEANING & RESTORATION SERVICES

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## Just Toss On Bleach? Well...

**Y**ou may have heard, "If you have mold, just toss some bleach on it..." While bleach will certainly make mold white, it will not remove the allergenic mold spores.

**Mold remediation is more than just killing the mold.** Remediation means that all mold and spores are removed. Dead mold is still dangerous to human health. Spores, which may be killed by bleach, are still allergenic. Without deep cleaning of both the air and all surfaces, there is no way to ensure full environmental safety.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not normally recommend the use of chlorine bleach in mold remediation except in cases where individuals have been immuno-compromised and the use of biocides is not possible. Even then, the remaining mold spores must be eliminated. Which chemical to use is a decision best left to trained professionals. Further, professional mold remediation services will have HEPA air scrubbers which will "scrub" the air and remove the remaining mold spores.

**If you choose** to remove the mold yourself, many household disinfectants can help produce an environment unsuitable for further mold growth. It is imperative that the moisture source be eliminated. A clean dry surface is the key to making sure that mold does not continue to grow. When cleaning, make sure you have adequate protection for your clothes and the air you will be breathing. When removing dry wall and insulation, make sure you protect against plumbing damage. Rags, sponges and other cleaning materials should be bagged and discarded to the outside trash can. Never mix household chemicals in attempts to make a stronger disinfectant. This could cause dangerous fumes.

When in doubt, call a certified mold remediator for consultation. Make sure you ask if the technician is both trained and certified to remove mold. Restoration companies who remediate mold should be experienced and certified in water damage, structural drying, and, of course, mold remediation.



**Bleach does not remove dangerous spores.**

# In Mold Prevention, Moisture Is The Key

Mold growth can be prevented. Mold needs three things to grow:

**1. A food source.** Usually this is the structural material found in all buildings: dry wall paper, wood, some insulation.

**2. Stagnant air.** Mold spores are nearly as light as air. Therefore, they need to be able to “settle” on a surface to be able to grow. That is why most mold will grow behind walls instead of on exposed exteriors.

**3. Moisture.** Moisture can be trapped, as in bathroom fans expelling into an attic instead of being vented.

Since virtually all homes and buildings have both food sources and trapped air in the walls, moisture control is the key to making sure mold does not grow

Make sure that indoor air is not more than 40% relative humidity. Also, if water damage occurs, the affected structural material must be dried down within 72 hours of the first damage. Many times, professional drying equipment such as dehumidifiers must be used to take out the excess moisture from structural material.

# What If I Have Water Damage?

When water damage occurs, the first thing that should be noted is what kind of water is present. In the restoration industry, three categories of water damage have been defined.

**Category One:** Fresh water not normally harmful to human consumption.

**Category Two:** Formally known as “grey water” the source of this water is from things like washing machines, dishwashers, and toilet overflow above the trap. This water is harmful, though not usually deadly to human contact.

**Category Three:** What most people used to call “black water.” Sewage, and other contaminated water that would be very harmful, even deadly to human contact.

Which category of water damage will determine how the restoration is to proceed.



When Category One water damage occurs in a building, there is a 72 hour window of opportunity to insure no mold growth will occur. In other words, if the drying process begins within this 72 hour window, the ability to ensure that no mold growth will be caused by this event is certain.

The following is a list of priority DO's when water damage occurs.

- 1 Stop the water source. A reputable plumber can help here. If you can't stop the water flow due to say, a broken pipe, locate and turn off the main water valve.**
- 2 Make sure no electrical circuits are in danger of contacting standing water.**
- 3 Remove as many valuables from standing water to a dry area. Furniture can be “blocked” up with plastic, wood or tin foil.**
- 4 Try to “dam” up any flowing water that might cause further damage to dry areas.**
- 5 Call a certified restoration service for a complete assessment of the scope of work needed.**
- 6 Call your insurance company to report the event.**

If you suspect a Category Two or Three water damage, DO NOT attempt to clean this your self as the health risk is very high in these situations. A professional restoration company has the means to deal with these dangerous situations.



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