HEALTHY HOMES

Mold

Mold growth indoors may be a problem. Mold may cause allergic reactions in some people. Mold may also be an asthma trigger.

Mold needs water or moisture to grow. Stop indoor mold growth by fixing leaks, controlling moisture, and cleaning up the mold.

Things You Can Do to Protect Your Family

Fix the Water Problem

- Correct water leaks immediately.
- Dry any water damaged items immediately to prevent mold growth.

Control Moisture Sources

- Run the bathroom fan or open the window when showering and afterwards as well.
- Vent clothes dryers to the outside.
- Use a dehumidifier to keep humidity levels low in basements.

Tenants: Report all plumbing leaks and moisture problems to your landlord. Call 311 if your problem isn't fixed.

Clean Moldy Surfaces

If the mold problem is small (less than about 10 square feet – roughly a 3 foot by 3 foot patch), then you can normally handle the cleanup job yourself. If you have a larger area of mold, you may need professional help.

- Remove mold with sponges or rags using a detergent.
  - Scrub mold off hard surfaces with soap or a detergent, and water, and dry completely.
  - Moldy ceiling tiles, carpet and other porous materials should be thrown away.
- Dispose of any sponges or rags used to clean mold.
- If the mold returns quickly or spreads, you may have an ongoing water problem. Fix water problems immediately.
- Protect yourself: Use waterproof gloves. For larger jobs, consider using safety goggles and a respirator.

Suggested Products

- Detergent/household cleaner
- Waterproof gloves
- Disposable rags/sponges
- Heavy-duty plastic garbage bags
- Buckets
- Protective gear (goggles, rubber gloves, N95 respirator)

For More Information
Call the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.
In NYC, **call 311** or go to **nyc.gov/health**