

Just the Facts...

Preventing Mold in the Home

While it is impossible to get rid of all mold in your home, you can keep it from taking over. The best defense is to keep a clean, dry home. Here are some helpful tips:

- Keep humidity below 60%, ideally between 30-50%. Using fans while cooking and showering helps. Make sure those fans, as well as your clothes dryer, vent to the outdoors, not to a crawl space, attic, or anywhere in your home where moisture can linger and turn into mold.
- Keep heating, cooling, humidifying and dehumidifying systems clean. Change or cleanse filters monthly; empty humidifier water trays and wipe down parts monthly.
- Clean, dry or remove anything from your home that is water-damaged, particularly carpets and padding. If you are installing new wall-to-wall carpet over a concrete floor, be sure to have an effective moisture barrier installed beneath it. Area rugs are a better choice for mold prevention.
- Ventilate and dehumidify attics, crawl spaces, and basements.
- Keep bathrooms dry and ventilated. Remove mold growth using detergent or soap from nonporous items (such as glass, plastic, metals, and tiles). Moldy porous items are generally impossible to clean and should be discarded in sealed plastic bags.
- If your home has a forced air system and you are considering having ducts cleaned professionally, visit this EPA web site for precautions and advice: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/airduct.html>