

AFTER THE FLOOD

Huron County



Public Health

INDOOR AIR QUALITY (IAQ)

STEPS TO REDUCE IAQ ISSUES AFTER A FLOOD:

- Dry all wet materials as soon as possible. The longer you allow mold to grow, the greater the risk, and the harder the cleanup. Use air conditioning or heat with fans and dehumidifiers, if possible.
- Remove wet carpeting. Discard all wet carpet and padding right away.
- Cut away wet wallboard and take out any damp insulation as quickly as possible. Wet insulation will promote mold growth behind the walls that will not be visible.
- **When in doubt, throw it out!** If you are unable to clean an item that is moldy, it should be removed, bagged, and thrown away. Moldy material should be covered with plastic before it is removed to reduce the spread of mold spores.
- After cleanup, continue to look for signs of new mold growth. If mold returns, repeat cleaning. Re-growth may mean that material is still too damp and needs to be removed.

TIPS FOR A SAFE FLOOD CLEAN-UP:

- Use non-phosphate detergents to clean items that came in contact with flood waters. Phosphate residual will promote mold growth.
- Minimize your exposure to mold by wearing gloves and a mask. If you are sensitive to mold, wear splash goggles, long sleeves, and long pants.
- Be careful about mixing household cleaners and disinfectants together. Many chemicals can produce toxic fumes when mixed (i.e. bleach and ammonia). Read all labels carefully.
- Do not use bleach when cleaning ventilation or air systems.
- Carbon monoxide can build up if certain types of combustion devices are used indoors, such as gasoline-powered generators, camp stoves, and charcoal-burning devices. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and lethal at high levels. Isolate your work area and ventilate it to the outdoors.
- Use a moisture meter to test the moisture level of wood products before replacing insulation. Wood should not have more than 14% moisture.
- The best way to avoid mold hazards is to hire a reputable professional that is licensed and properly trained in mold removal.

For more information regarding Indoor Air Quality, please visit our website at:

www.huroncohealth.com

To find a licensed mold professional, visit the National Association of Mold Professionals at:

www.moldpro.org