

Fresh Perspective

The Stain Expert
Extreme Steamers

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KEEP MOLD AT BAY: TAKE AWAY ITS FOOD

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes how water damage situations (such as from a flood, leaky or broken pipe, sewage backup, etc) can be potentially hazardous... not just initially, but over time as well.

Why? Because of the potential of mold and how it affects human health. Exposure to damp and moldy environments and materials can be especially harmful to those sensitive to irritants common to mold contamination. Some find that even being outside near plant life in the process of decomposition is a problem. Mold and mildew can run rampant under certain conditions, causing allergic reactions.

So when a water damage does happen in your home, don't take chances. Mold needs moisture. It needs to be fed. It will grow on organic materials that are wet. If you take away its "food" you inhibit the ability of mold to grow.

Important reminders: Remember that mold will grow in places with a lot of moisture, anywhere there is a leak. This can be around windows, behind walls where water has intruded, from leaky roofs, and especially from leaky pipes – especially those that are leaking and you didn't know about it!

Many homeowners are tempted to clean up water that comes into their home, such as when a sump pump might fail or when a toilet might overflow. Good intentions for sure. But if you don't get it really dry, really fast, there can be problems.

Here's a scary thought: Some professional water damage experts won't even do a water removal job if they can't get to it within 24 hours. They know mold could have started to grow and that means more work than simply extracting water and drying the home could be required.



URINE ODOR

Finished his second bowl of water with a chaser of milk. Likes to strut, act tough, barks at the mailman. Bought his own "Beware of the Dog" sign. Lightning strikes and thunder shakes the house. "mmroops"

- #1: The magic word is cornstarch. Cornstarch! Make sure the urine stain is covered with it, then wait 30 minutes before rinsing it with water and blotting.
- #2: Mix water & vinegar in equal parts. Apply to stained area. Dry. Sprinkle baking soda. Then sprinkle over a mixture of hydrogen peroxide (half cup) and dish washing detergent (teaspoon). Lightly apply to area. Dry. Vacuum.

Are the old-fashioned remedies going to work? Maybe... maybe not. It depends on the severity.

**The best remedy is to call
The Stain Expert!**