

## Mold in water-damaged buildings

As you clean up your home after the storm, it's important to be aware of possible indoor air quality problems. Moisture from leaks or flooding that enters your home and other buildings speeds up the growth of mold. Mold can cause illness, trigger allergies and continue to damage your home long after the storm. Failure to control moisture and mold can present short and long-term health risks.

### To protect against health risks from mold:

- Open windows and doors to provide plenty of fresh air.
- Remove standing water from your home or office.
- Remove anything that is wet.
- Carefully remove or clean the moldy material if mold has already started to grow.
- Consider using personal protective equipment when cleaning or removing mold – gloves, goggles and an N-95 particle respirator (found at most local hardware stores). Check with your doctor before wearing a respirator. Do not use a respirator if you have heart disease or chronic lung disease such as asthma or emphysema.
- If you have asthma or a known allergy to mold you should not be involved in the clean-up or removal of moldy materials.
- Do not mix cleaners and disinfectants, as hazardous gases may produce hazardous chemical reactions. Read and follow label instructions carefully.

Florida Emergency Information Line: 1-800-342-3557