

Mould

Mould grows in damp, dull and poorly ventilated spaces such as some kitchens, bathrooms and laundries. Dust and dirt in these areas also helps mould breed.

What can I do to reduce mould in my property?

Follow these hints to keep mould out of your property:

- Open doors and windows to allow air to circulate, particularly in the bathroom during cool weather.
- Keep bathroom walls, showers, shower curtains, baths and basins as dry as possible – open the door to allow air to circulate through the room.
- Clean your bathroom and property regularly. Wipe away moisture on windows and walls to keep them dry.
- Allow sunlight into the property as much as possible, especially in the bathroom, laundry and kitchen.
- Wash and dry damp clothes, and dry and air damp shoes outside as soon as possible. Make sure clothes and shoes are dry before putting them away in a wardrobe or clothes storing area. Leave wardrobe doors open where possible.
- Remove fruit and vegetables from plastic wrapping and refrigerate within 72 hours. Discard mouldy fruits and vegetables. Keep fresh food in sealed containers.
- Evaporation trays in air-conditioners, dehumidifiers, and refrigerators should be cleaned frequently.
- Do not run evaporative air-conditioning systems with water during times of high humidity (over 65%). If the air is feeling humid, run the evaporative air-conditioning system without water. Always ensure windows are open when running an evaporative air-conditioning system.
- Regularly clean carpets and rugs to prevent mould spores using a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter vacuum cleaner. Most new vacuum cleaners include HEPA filters.
- If water leaks or spills occur indoors, it is important to clean and dry the area immediately or preferably within 24-48 hours to prevent mould from growing.
- Ensure the property does not have any water leaks that are visible.

How do I remove mould from my property?

- Personal protective equipment, including half-face disposable respirators with P1 or P2 filters are available at hardware stores, and should be used to avoid possible mould spore inhalation when cleaning.
- Take additional precautions to prevent mould spore release and transmission by using of drop sheets and excluding persons not performing the work from the area that is being cleaned.
- Remove mould by using a suitable mould remover, such as:

- a solution of three parts vinegar and two parts water
 - a solution of 70% methylated spirits and 30% water
 - a solution of tea tree oil and water, or
 - commercial products available from supermarkets.
- Ensure that you comply with the safety precautions provided by the manufacturer to protect your eyes and skin from the solution or mould remover.
 - Wipe clean the affected area using a microfibre cloth with the cleaning solution. Use a two bucket system – one bucket with the solution and the other with clean water. Do not put the dirty cloth back in the solution – wash in the clean water bucket first. This avoids cross contamination.
 - After cleaning the mould-affected areas with the solution, wipe the surfaces with a damp cloth. Do not use the same cloth used with the solution.
 - Wipe all surfaces dry with a clean cloth.
 - It is important to use a different cloth with each process and dispose of them immediately, otherwise the mould spores will be spread and mould will reappear in a short time.
 - Do not attempt to dry brush the area using a broom or brush as this can increase spread of mould.