



Lower Providence Township

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Dear Resident,

The recent flooding within our township has left many of you with a difficult cleanup effort. While the job is overwhelming, it is an extremely important one. All areas affected by the floodwaters should be cleaned and thoroughly dried to prevent the growth of dangerous mold.

Molds are microscopic organisms found virtually everywhere, indoors and outdoors. But, if a large number of airborne mold spores are present, they can cause allergic reactions, asthma episodes, infections and other respiratory problems. The following appear to be at higher risk for adverse health affects from molds and should consult a physician if they are experiencing any health problems: infants, elderly, individuals with compromised immune systems, pregnant women, those with existing respiratory conditions.

Because porous materials can trap molds, you should dispose of any wet paper, rags, wallboard and rotten wood. These should be bagged and thrown out. Harder materials like glass, plastic and metal can be kept—after being cleaned and disinfected.

Removal and cleanup tips:

- Wear a filter mask and gloves to avoid contact with the mold.
- Remove porous materials (examples: ceiling tiles, Sheetrock, carpeting, and wood products.)
- If Sheetrock is flooded, remove all Sheetrock to at least 12 inches above the high water mark.
- Carpeting can be a difficult problem—drying does not remove the dead spores. If there is heavy mold, disposal of the carpet should be considered.
- Clean, disinfect and dry the moldy area, using non-ammonia soap or detergent, or a commercial cleaner in hot water. Scrub the entire area affected by the mold.
- Use a stiff brush or cleaning pad.
- Rinse with clean water.
- After thorough cleaning and rinsing, disinfect the area with a solution of 10 percent household bleach (1-1/4 cup bleach per gallon of water)
- NEVER mix bleach with ammonia—the fumes are toxic.
- Let disinfected areas dry naturally overnight to kill all of the mold.

For more information on disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov and www.pema.state.pa.us. Should you have other cleanup questions, contact Lower Providence Township Emergency Management and Planning, 610-539-5900.

Sincerely,

Charles A. DeFrancesco
Emergency Management Coordinator