

The Truth About Mold [®]

(NAPSA)—Mold becomes a problem inside a home when there's excessive humidity or moisture. The problem can originate from sudden water releases, like a burst pipe or large spill, or a chronic condition such as a leaking roof or plumbing. Even high humidity or warm, moist air condensing on cool surfaces can trigger mold problems. It's always best to have the mold assessed and removed by a certified professional.

The non-profit Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) recommends that homeowners contact a certified professional to ensure that mold is removed correctly and occupants are protected throughout the job. Typically, to contain and prevent further contamination, certified professionals can:

1. Verify that the moisture source has been eliminated
2. Contain the area to prevent cross contamination
3. Create negative pressure to prevent mold from spreading
4. Recommend an environmental professional to evaluate the mold problem
5. Vacuum affected areas using equipment with high efficiency filters
6. Remove and correctly dispose of heavily contaminated materials
7. HEPA vacuum exposed pockets of growth
8. Dry remaining materials

For more information on preventing mold in your home or business, or to locate an IICRC Certified Firm near you, visit www.iicrc.org or call (800) 835-4624.