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Mold in Water-Damaged Buildings



Contact:

Cynthia Leckey, EH Director
brevard.ehs@flhealth.gov
321-633-2100

Viera, FL — The Florida Department of Health in Brevard County (DOH-Brevard) urges the public to take precautionary measures to avoid indoor air quality problems that can occur in storm damaged homes and buildings. Moisture from leaks or flooding can promote mold growth.

To Protect Against Health Risks Associated with Mold:

- Remove standing water from your home or office within 24 hours, being cautious about other hazards such as electricity, physical damage to the home or office and animals in the water or home.
- Dry out or remove wet building materials and carpets within 24 hours.
- If power is available use an air conditioner or dehumidifiers to reduce the indoor humidity levels. If using a portable generator to power air conditioners, dehumidifiers or other equipment, appliances or tools **keep the portable generators at least 20 feet away from your and your neighbor's home. All homes should have working carbon monoxide alarms installed at all times.**
- If mold growth has already occurred, carefully remove or clean the moldy material.
- Use at least an N-95 respirator (or higher protection if possible), gloves and goggles when cleaning or removing mold. People with mold allergies, asthma or who have weakened immune systems should not clean or remove moldy materials.
- When using cleaners, make sure to read and follow the label instructions carefully and open windows and doors to provide plenty of fresh air. **Do not mix bleach with ammonia cleaners or acids because a dangerous gas will form.**

For further guidance and tips go to epa.gov/flooded-homes and/or FloridaHealth.gov/indoorair, contact DOH-Brevard at 321-633-2100 or www.brevardeh.com or call DOH's Radon and Indoor Program at 850-245-4288 or 800-543-8279.

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