**Mold Clean-up and Removal**

To clean up and remove indoor mold growth, follow steps 1-6 as they apply to your home.

*If the moldy area is excessive or the damage was caused by sewage or other contaminated water, you may want to call a professional who has experience cleaning and fixing building damages by contaminated water. If you have health concerns consult a health professional before starting cleanup.*

1. **Identify and Fix the Moisture Problem**: the most important step in solving a mold problem is to identify and correct the moisture source(s) that allowed the growth in the first place.

2. **Begin Drying All Wet Materials**: as soon as possible after becoming wet. For severe moisture problems, use fans and dehumidifiers and move wet items away from walls and off floors. Check with equipment rental companies or restoration firms for additional equipment or contracting options.

3. **Remove and Dispose of Mold Contaminated Materials**: items which have absorbed moisture (porous materials) and which have mold growing on them need to be removed, bagged and thrown out. Such materials may include sheet rock, insulation, plaster, carpet/carpet pad, ceiling tiles, wood products (other than solid wood), and paper products. Likewise, any such porous materials that have contacted sewage should also be bagged and thrown away. Non-porous materials with surface mold growth may be saved if they are cleaned well and kept dry (see step 4).

4. **Clean Surfaces**: surface mold growing on non-porous or semi-porous materials such as hard plastic, concrete, glass, metal, and solid wood can usually be cleaned. Cleaning to remove and capture all mold contamination, is very important because dead spores and mold particles may cause health problems if they are left in place.

5. **Disinfect Surfaces - optional**: after cleaning has removed all visible mold and other soiling from contaminated surfaces, a disinfectant may be used to kill mold missed by the cleaning. Mix 1/4 to 1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water and apply to surfaces where mold growth was visible before cleaning. Apply the solution with a sponge or by other methods that do not over saturate or flood the surface area.

6. **Remain on Mold Alert**: Continue looking for signs of moisture problems or return of mold growth. Be particularly alert to moisture in areas of past growth. If mold returns, repeat cleaning steps and consider using a stronger solution to disinfect the area again. Re-growth may signal that the material should be removed or that moisture is not yet controlled.