



Post-Flood Mold Checklist

FOR ST. LOUIS HOMEOWNERS

After water damage, mold can begin colonizing wet materials in as little as **24 to 48 hours** (EPA/CDC). Follow this checklist to protect your St. Louis home before a wet basement turns into a much bigger problem.

FIRST 24 HOURS — MOVE FAST

- **Stop the water source.** Shut off the main water supply if the flooding is from a plumbing failure.
- **Document everything.** Photograph and video every affected room before you move or clean anything — your insurance will need it.
- **Remove standing water immediately.** Wet/dry shop vacs, sump pumps, or a professional water extraction crew.
- **Move wet items out.** Furniture, rugs, electronics, and boxes off wet flooring and into a dry, ventilated area.
- **Open windows and run fans.** Maximize airflow to start drying structural materials.
- **Call your insurance carrier.** Start the claim and ask what documentation they need.

FIRST 48 HOURS — THE MOLD CLOCK

- **Rent or run commercial dehumidifiers.** Target **30–50% relative humidity** (EPA guideline).
- **Remove saturated drywall and insulation.** Anything wet more than 24 hours rarely dries in place.
- **Pull up carpet and carpet padding.** Padding almost never dries out — replace it.
- **Dry hardwood and subfloors thoroughly.** Use a moisture meter — below 15% before you recover anything.
- **Don't seal wet materials behind new drywall.** It's the #1 cause of hidden mold we find in St. Louis homes.

FIRST WEEK — INSPECT & MONITOR

- **Check HVAC ducts and evaporator coils.** Mold loves dark, humid ductwork — have it inspected if water reached any return.
- **Inspect behind baseboards and inside wall cavities.** Feel for dampness; look for staining.
- **Watch for warning signs:** musty smells, discoloration, peeling paint, bubbling drywall, worsening allergies.
- **Schedule a professional mold inspection** if the affected area is larger than 10 sq ft, or any time you smell mustiness after drying.

CALL A CERTIFIED REMEDIATOR IF YOU SEE:

- Musty or “earthy” smell, especially in the basement
- Black, green, or brown discoloration on walls, ceilings, or baseboards
- Peeling paint, bubbling drywall, or warped flooring
- Worsening allergy, asthma, or respiratory symptoms indoors
- Any water intrusion in the last 6–12 months — even if it “dried out”

FREE MOLD INSPECTION FOR ST. LOUIS HOMEOWNERS

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