0:07
Molds are a type of fungus that can be found in the air
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and grow on any surface where there is moisture or water.
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Breathing or touching mold can lead to asthma attacks, eye and skin irritation,
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and allergic reactions. It can lead to severe infections in people with weakened immune systems.
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If your home was flooded and you were not able to dry your home completely within 24 to 48 hours,
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you should assume there is mold growth.
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If you can see signs of dampness or know areas were wet, mold may be growing there.
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You may see or smell mold on clothing, drywall, furniture, cardboard boxes,
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or books, but it may also be hidden under or behind items like carpet, cushions, or walls.
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Mold can also be different colors.
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You can clean moldy items that do not absorb water or that can be laundered.
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See the 'Material Sorting' video for more information on what items to keep and clean.
1:04
To prevent you and your family from getting sick from mold
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there are three steps to safely remove mold. Ensure all flood water is removed from your
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home and temporary weather barriers are in place so rain cannot enter.
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Completely dry everything. Clean up moldy objects.
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When cleaning mold, always wear gloves, a mask, and eye protection
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to avoid exposure to flood water contaminants like viruses, bacteria, parasites and mold.
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Clean moldy items gently first, using a damp cloth or rag with detergent.
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Scrubbing mold too hard can release the spores into the air.

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After cleaning with a detergent, surfaces can be treated, if necessary, with an
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EPA-registered household disinfectant. Follow label instructions to use the disinfectant safely.
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Make sure all mold is removed, any water problems are fixed, and surfaces are completely dry before
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painting or caulking. Painting or caulking over mold will not prevent it from growing.
2:05
After these steps have been completed, if you see or smell a musty,
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moldy or mildew odor, or if you have health problems that get worse,
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like asthma or allergy attacks, or skin or eye irritation, mold may still be present.
2:21
A mold remediation professional can help determine whether the mold cleanup is complete.
2:26
For tips on cleaning mold and damaged items from a flood,
2:29
visit epa.gov/mold and epa.gov/flooded-homes.