

AFTER THE STORM

MILDEW REMOVAL

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES



Begin as soon as mildew is discovered. Brush off outdoors. Sun-dry and air-out your clothes before laundering or dry cleaning. To remove mildew stains that remain, try one of the following:

***Note: Test fabrics for color fastness first.**

1. Moisten stain with a mixture of lemon juice and salt. Lay textiles in sun to bleach. Rinse thoroughly.
2. Mix 1 to 2 tablespoons of powdered, non-chlorine bleach containing sodium perborate or potassium monopersulfate with one pint of water. Use the water temperature recommended for the fabric or color. Sponge or soak the stain. Let stand 30 minutes or longer; then rinse well. Old stains may need to soak overnight.
3. Mix 2 tablespoons of liquid chlorine bleach with 1 quart warm water. Sponge or soak stain for 5 to 15 minutes and then rinse.

***Note: Do not use chlorine bleach on silk, wool, or spandex fibers.**

LEATHER GOODS

After testing for colorfastness, wipe with a cloth moistened with diluted alcohol* (1 cup denatured alcohol to 1 cup water). Dry where the air is circulating. If mildew remains, wash quickly with thick suds made from a mild soap or detergent, or saddle soap. Wipe with a damp cloth and dry in air. Polish leather shoes, etc., with a good wax dressing.



After removing mildew, air or sun the leather product thoroughly.

***Note: Test for colorfastness before using the alcohol/water sponge.**

PAPER AND BOOKS

If books or paper are damp, dry in a breezy place. Take them outside and brush off any loose mold with a clean, dry cloth.



Remove stains by wiping gently with a cloth that was soaked with suds and wrung out. Rinse with clear water. After removing the stain, pat the area dry with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn stains, a chlorine bleach and water solution can be used. Rinse with clear water on a cloth and dry with a soft cloth as above. Try not to wet paper, and do not scrub.

Spread pages of books fanwise to dry in an airy place. If still damp, sprinkle cornstarch between leaves to dry. Leave on several hours, then brush.

For damp wallpaper, heat or air condition the room to thoroughly dry plaster and paper.

UPHOLSTERY, MATTRESSES AND RUGS

Vacuum or dust off mildew. Be sure to dispose of vacuum bag, as it will contain mildew spores. Dry the item in the sun if possible. If mildew remains, sponge with a cloth moistened with 1 cup denatured or rubbing alcohol* mixed with a cup of water. Dry thoroughly.

Rugs and carpets that show mildew should be shampooed and dried as quickly as possible. Sunning is a big help. Sometimes the cause of mildew on carpets is moisture from the floor or padding underneath. If this is the case, the carpet should be removed and the cause of the moisture determined and corrected.



***Note:** Test for colorfastness before using the alcohol/water sponge.

PAINTED SURFACES

Inside—Scrub mildewed paint or plaster with a solution of 3/4 cup household bleach to 1 gallon water. Rinse with clean water and allow to dry thoroughly before painting or papering.



For wooden* furniture: Remove mildew with vacuum cleaner. Clean with a soft cloth dipped in a mild detergent and water solution and wrung almost dry. Work with a small area at a time, rinsing with a cloth dipped in clean water and wrung almost dry. Dry each area thoroughly before going on to the next area. Mildew often feeds on the dirt and greasy film that accumulates on furniture. If a white film develops after this cleaning, wax buildup has probably occurred. Use furniture cleaner to remove the layers of wax. Finally, reapply a thin coat of paste wax.

For wood* walls: Scrub wood with a mixture of 4 to 6 tablespoons washing soda to 1 gallon of water. Do a small area at a time. Rinse with clear water and dry quickly. If mildew still appears, use a mixture of 4 to 6 tablespoons trisodium phosphate and 2 tablespoons household ammonia per gallon of water.

Be sure to test for colorfastness. Never mix ammonia and bleach. It produces a deadly gas.

Outside—Scrub mildewed paint with 2/3 cup trisodium phosphate**, 1/3 cup detergent, 1 quart household bleach, and 3 quarts warm water. When clean, rinse thoroughly with clear water. Then treat the surface with a commercial fungicide. Repaint with a mildew-resistant paint.



For a roof cleaner, use 2/3 cup of trisodium phosphate to 1/3 cup of detergent, 1 quart of chlorine bleach and 3 quarts of warm water. Work in small areas so scrubbing and rinsing can be done before the mixture dries.***

When cleaning with chlorine bleach use rubber gloves. Avoid contact with skin and eyes or prolonged breathing of the vapors.

Remember to protect plants from these chemical mixtures.

*Water will damage wood if allowed to stay on it. Always test the cleaner before using. Work with small areas that can be rinsed and dried before moving on.

**Trisodium phosphate is available in paint or hardware stores.

***Chlorine bleach damages some roofing materials. Test before using.

UNPAINTED WOOD

Decks and Wood Shingles—Scrub surfaces with a solution of 1 quart of bleach to 3 quarts of water. Rinse thoroughly. Commercial cleaners are also available. Read directions carefully to know what the cleaners will do, how to use them and what precautions should be taken.



BATHROOM AND BASEMENT



Scrub surfaces with a solution made from 1 quart liquid chlorine (household) bleach, 2 tablespoons liquid detergent, 6 tablespoons trisodium phosphate, and 9 quarts of water. Use a brush or old toothbrush to clean grout. Let surface dry, and then rinse with plenty of water. If shower curtains can be washed by machine, add chlorine bleach with the detergent. Use a warm water rinse for plastics and hang while warm for wrinkles to fall out.