Tips to Avoid Mold

Moisture control is the key to mold control. Here are some actions you can take to decrease moisture in your home:

- Leaks: Repair water/pipe/roof leaks immediately. Contact your landlord or property manager as soon as possible upon discovering a leak. Check our Water Conservation flyer to learn how to check for a leak.

- Condensation: Wipe excess condensation from windows/walls/shower on a daily basis. Use a solution of 9 parts water to 1 part bleach for shower and kitchen cleaning.

- Flooding: Remove all standing water from flooding and “dry down” the damp surfaces as quickly as possible. Use fans to increase ventilation immediately after clean up.

- Increase ventilation by:
  - Opening windows
  - Using free-standing fans
  - Using dehumidifiers

  Ideally, the relative humidity should be below 55%. Relative humidity can be measured with a moisture or humidity meter. They are available for $10-$40 at many hardware stores.

- Contents: Avoid excess contents in closets and other poorly ventilated, dark areas. Do not store away clothing that has not dried thoroughly.

- Heat: Keep your home at least at 68 degrees during the winter.

Warning Signs of a Possible Mold Problem

- Musty/mildew odors inside your home.
- Increased allergies and respiratory problems.
- Increased headaches, dizziness, difficulty concentrating, decreased attention span.
- Water staining on surfaces such as ceilings, flooring, or walls.
- Peeling paint or wallpaper delamination from damp surfaces.
- Drywall tape separation from wallboard-drywall; nails/screws beginning to show.
- Warped, cupping or buckling floors.
- Condensation build-up on interior windows, walls, etc.
- Standing water in your crawlspace or basement.