

Mold Prevention Checklist

Mold and mildew in humid climates has been recognized as a problem and identified as a source for contamination and damage to your household good (HHG) shipment. It is your responsibility to take preventative measures to mitigate mold contamination, prior to HHGs being packed and picked-up for shipment. Below are recommended steps from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on how to prevent goods from being damaged or destroyed due to mold contamination. You cannot eliminate all mold spores from a home, but you can take the following steps to prevent and get rid of mold.

Do not wait until the last moment to clean your items as they will contaminate the rest of your shipment. Please follow the below timeframe and instructions, so that your HHG and UB shipments will be ready for packing.

Two weeks prior to pack day

Move furniture away from walls and check for mold growth. Furniture placed against walls is highly susceptible to mold growth. If mold is discovered, follow cleaning instructions.

1. Check items in storage areas and closets. Items that have not been recently used may be subjected to undetected mold contamination.
2. Check mattresses and box springs for signs of mold and mildew. Specifically, look at the undersides of these pieces as they are typical areas for mold growth. If mold is present, these items may not be cleaned and, therefore, not allowed to be shipped. Throw away moldy materials that cannot be cleaned, such as carpet, upholstered furniture, drywall and floorboards.
3. Inspect all outdoor furniture, barbeque grills, tools, etc. for signs of mold. Clean if necessary.

One week prior to pack day

1. Check items that previously showed mold growth and required cleaning. Perform a second cleaning if necessary.
2. Keep furniture away from walls to allow for air circulation. Special attention should be given to items close to air conditioning units.

48 hours prior to pack day

1. Wash and thoroughly dry all clothing to be shipped. Do not wait until the day before or pack day to do laundry. Adding chlorine bleach to the wash cycle will remove most mildew and will sanitize the clothing. However, bleach might fade some fabrics and damage other fabrics. If the label reads "dry clean only," shake out loose dirt and take the item to a professional cleaner.
2. Re-inspect items to ensure there are no signs of mold.
3. Reduce exposure to moisture for any items that will be included in your shipment.
4. Make sure outdoor furniture is dry prior to pack/pickup.
5. Turn off air conditioning to avoid condensation build up items day of pickup.

Cleaning Procedures

To remove mold growth from hard surfaces use commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water.

If you choose to use bleach to remove mold:

- Never mix with ammonia or other household cleaners. Mixing with ammonia or other cleaning products will produce dangerous, toxic fumes
- Open windows and doors to provide fresh air.
- Wear non-porous gloves and protective eye wear and a mask.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using bleach or any other cleaning product.

If a large area of mold is detected and you are allergic to mold, consider hiring a professional to clean it.

The information provided is to assist the member/employee with ways to prevent and treat mold contaminated items. If mold is identified, please follow the cleaning procedures to prevent further mold growth.

NOTE: If mold or mildew is discovered on any item(s) during the packing process those items will not be shipped.

Remember the key to mold control is moisture control!!