REDUCING HURRICANE IMPACTS

HOW TO REDUCE MOLD INFESTATION IN YOUR HOME

Tips To Clean Up Mold

Funded by USVI Storm Strong and
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Literacy Program

PROTECT YOURSELF - Put on gloves, mask, goggles to protect your eyes, nose, mouth, and skin.

TOSS! - Take out anything that got wet during the flooding event and can't be cleaned and dried completely within 24 to 48 hours. Take photos of discarded items for filing insurance claims.

AIR IT OUT - Open all doors and windows when you are working and leave as many open as you safely can when you leave; use fans and dehumidifiers when possible.

SCRUB SURFACES - Clean with water and detergent. Remove all mold you can see. Dry right away.

DON'T MIX CLEANERS - If you use cleaning products, do not mix them together.

DO NOT mix bleach & ammonia or bleach and vinegar to avoid toxic vapors.

DON'T COVER IT, REMOVE IT – Painting or caulking over mold does not kill it. Fix the water problem completely and clean up all the mold before you paint or caulk.

DRY IT UP – Dry your home and everything in it as quickly as possible – within 24 to 48 hours.

Wash your hands thoroughly and change your clothes after working on mold cleanup activities.

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SAFE DRINKING WATER

All public water systems are required to follow U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations and standards. But no such standards exist for harvested rainwater and owners of private wells are responsible for ensuring that their well water is safe from contaminants.

Harvested rainwater from cisterns can cause adverse health impacts if water is not properly treated. If you're unsure about the safety of your drinking water - especially after heavy rains or storms - , following are some steps you can take:

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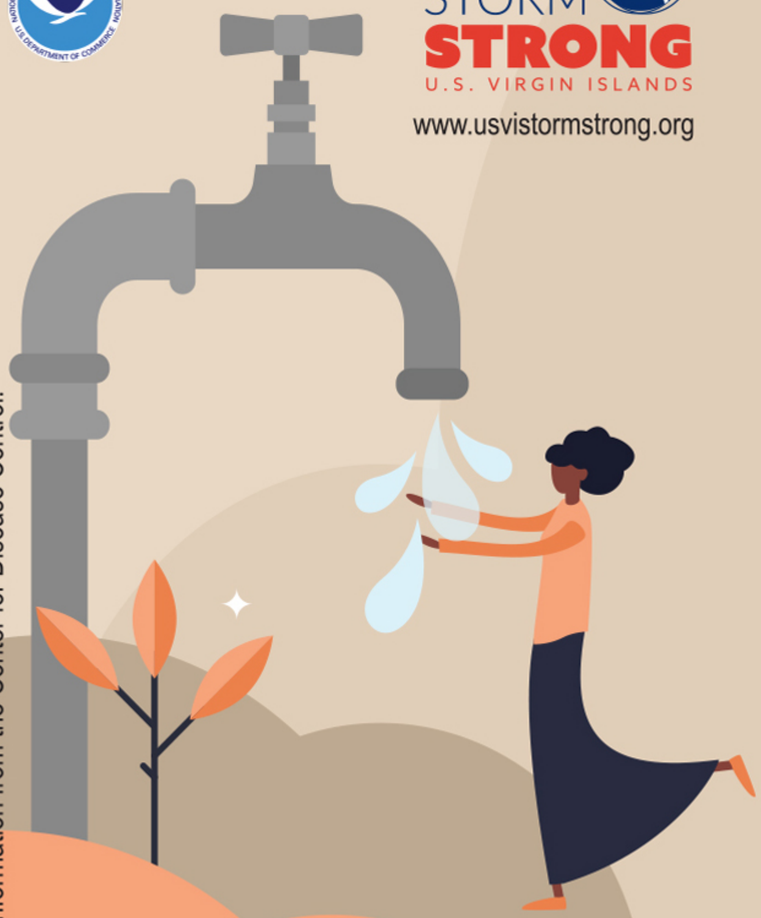

Information from the Center for Disease Control.

FILTER! Water filters can make water safe to drink. Look for a filter that has a pore size of 1 micron or less. This removes microbes like *Cryptosporidium*, that are problematic for human health. Most water filters do not remove very small bacteria or viruses however, so after filtering, add a disinfectant to kill any remaining viruses and bacteria.

BOIL! Boiling kills disease-causing organisms. Bring clear water to a rolling boil for 1 min and cool. If the water is cloudy, filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter OR allow it to settle. Draw off the clear water, bring to a rolling boil for 1 min and cool. Always store water in a clean, covered container.

DISINFECT! Water can be made safe to drink using a disinfectant, including household chlorine bleach. Bleach comes in different concentrations. Make sure you read the label to know the concentration you are using.

When using 5-6% unscented liquid household chlorine bleach, add a little less than 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops) per gallon of clear water. If the water is cloudy and you cannot filter it, add a little less than ¼ teaspoon (16 drops) per gallon. Stir the mixture and let rest for 30 min before using.

When using 8.25% unscented liquid household chlorine bleach, add a little less than 1/8 tsp (6 drops) per gallon of clear water. If the water is cloudy and you cannot filter it, add a little less than ¼ teaspoon (12 drops) per gallon. Stir the mixture and let it rest for 30 min before using.

USE BOTTLED WATER! If other methods are unavailable, bottled water can be used; preferably, stored in larger containers to reduce waste.

IMPORTANT: Water contaminated by fuel or toxic chemicals cannot be made safe by boiling or disinfection. Containers used to store water should be cleaned properly and should not have been previously used to store chemicals or other hazardous materials.