



# PUBLIC FACT SHEET

## CLEANING

The four major steps to cleaning many items after the flood are:

### 1. Remove contaminated mud.

Shovel out as much mud as possible, and then use a garden sprayer or hose to wash away mud from hard surfaces. Start cleaning walls at the bottom or where damage is worst. Remember to hose out heating ducts, disconnecting the furnace first.

### 2. Clean.

Scrub surfaces with hot water and a heavy-duty cleaner. Scrub off all contaminants with a brush. Rinse off soap.

### 3. Disinfect.

Bacteria can only be destroyed by disinfecting or sanitizing. This can be done by wiping or spraying surfaces with a solution of  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chlorine bleach per gallon of water or a product that is labeled with an EPA registration number as a disinfectant. After wiping or spraying with a disinfectant, put the item out in the sun, if possible, for additional natural disinfecting plus drying.

*(See the Cleaners & Disinfectant Charts)*

### 4. Dry.

Ventilate with an entrance and exhaust opening for air to promote cross-ventilation. Place a fan in a window or door with the fan to the outdoors. Seal the rest of the opening with cardboard, plywood or blankets so the fan can create a vacuum. Wood should have a moisture content of less than 15 percent before drywall, paneling or other coverings are placed over it.

### Mildew

If mildew has developed because the molds weren't killed and the source is still damp, a strong product is required to remove it, and the required strength may ruin some household items.

### Hard Surfaces

Mildew may be removed from walls and similar hard surfaces with this solution:

1 gallon water

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup liquid chlorine bleach

1 cup trisodium phosphate (available in hardware and discount stores as TSP)

Follow all safety precautions when using this strong solution. Wash a small area at a time. Rinse quickly, and dry with a soft cloth.



# PUBLIC FACT SHEET

## CLEANERS

TYPE OF CLEANER*	USES	PRECAUTIONS	ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS
All purpose detergents (Tide, Wisk, Cheer) or soap (Duz)	Moderate or heavily soiled washable, color-fast textiles. On furniture and appliance surfaces. Painted walls and woodwork and wallpaper. Floors, rugs, and carpets.	Do not use on wool, silk, or fabric containing these fiber blends.	Rinse well to remove suds.
Enzyme products (Biz, Axion)	Helpful on tough stains, ground-in dirt and grass stains, restoring whiteness to fabrics.	The use of chlorine bleach will inactivate enzymatic action when both products are used.	
Liquid household cleaner (Top Job, Ajax, Janitor in a Drum). Powdered household cleaner (Spic 'n Span, Ajax, Comet, Bon Ami)	Removes mud, silt and greasy deposits from hard surfaces such as painted walls, floors, woodwork, porcelain.	Dilute with water as directed on container for specific uses.	
Household ammonia	Hard surfaces: windows, walls, woodwork, floors, tile, porcelain.	Dilute in water. Do not get in eyes. May irritate skin. <b>Do not combine with chlorine bleach.</b>	
Tri-sodium phosphates (TSP)	Wood walls, wood work, floors.	Powder. Dilute in water. Do not get in eyes. May irritate skin. <b>Do not combine with chlorine bleach.</b>	For mildew removal, combine 8-10 tablespoons tri-sodium phosphate in 1 gallon water.



# PUBLIC FACT SHEET

## DISINFECTANTS

Ottawa County Health Department

DISINFECTANTS & SANITIZERS	USES	PRECAUTIONS	ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS
Quaternary (Roccal, Zephin, Crew, End-Bac) (available in janitorial, dairy and poultry supply houses)	Laundry-safe for all fibers. Helpful in removing musty odors on floors and walls.	May cause some color change.	Add at beginning of rinse cycle.
Pine oil disinfectants (Fyne Pine, Texize-O-Pine)	Laundry-safe for washable clothing.	Do not use on wool or silk. Pine odor will linger on these fabrics.	Add before putting clothes in machine, or dilute in 1 quart water.
Liquid chlorine disinfectants (Clorox, Purex)	Use as rinse on carpets and furniture or in laundry to disinfect or to control mold. Follow instructions for use with colored fabrics.	<b>Do not combine with ammonia.</b> Follow instructions. Bleach can ruin many items. Do not use in rinse water. Do not use on aluminum or on linoleum.	Add bleach before putting clothes in washer or dilute in 1 quart water.
Phenolic disinfectants (Pine-Sol, Al-Pine, Lysol)	Laundry-safe for washables. Bathrooms, plastic or ceramic tile floor.	Do not use on wool or silk.	Add in wash or rinse cycle.



# PUBLIC FACT SHEET

Ottawa County Health Department

## MILDEW REMOVING PROCEDURES

PROBLEM	HOW TO DEAL WITH IT	MATERIALS & TRADE NAMES	WHERE AVAILABLE	PRECAUTIONS	ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS
Upholstered furniture	Remove padding. Dry. Plan to reupholster. Throw away all cotton stuffing.			To protect exposed wood dry in sun short time only.	Dry thoroughly. Use fan and indirect heat.
Rugs	Consult professional rug cleaner. Home care - sponge with thick suds. Rinse. Dry. Spray with fungicide.		Grocery stores Drug stores		Suspend rugs for drying if possible.
Wood furniture	Clean while still wet. Wash with suds. Wipe with alcohol and water solution. Dry away from direct sun & heat.	Rubbing or denatured alcohol.	Grocery stores Drug stores Variety stores	Do NOT dry in sun.	Dry in warm place with ventilation. Wait 4-6 weeks before refinishing.
Floors, woodwork, & other woods	Dry wood with heat & ventilation. Wipe off mildew. Scrub with solution of washing soda or tri-sodium phosphate.	Spic & Span, washing soda, Tri-sodium phosphate - 6 tablespoons per gallon of water.	Paint stores Grocery stores		May be repainted with mildew-resistant paint. This paint contains fungicide. Do NOT use on children's cribs, playpens, or toys. Rinse. Dry 6 weeks before repainting.
Books	Stand books on end. Spread out pages to dry. Wipe off mildew. After a few hours, stack and press to avoid wrinkling. Alternate opening & stacking until completely dry. Sprinkle talcum powder or cornstarch on pages to absorb moisture.	Moth crystals. Various trade names. Chemical name is parachlorobenzene.	Grocery stores Drugstores	Avoid breathing fumes from moth crystals.	Books may be frozen until you have time to work with them. Place books in closed container with moth crystals to stop mold growth. A fan or heater may hasten drying. Can apply low heat with electric iron.
Basements	Sweep up dirt and debris. Scrub with disinfectant solution. If mildew odor persists, sprinkle bleaching powder over floor. Leave until floor is dry. Sweep.	Disinfectants Clorox Purex Bleaching powder-chloride of lime or chlorinated lime	Grocery stores Farm supply stores	Bleaching powder is poisonous. Follow precautions on label. Keep away from children and pets. Will cause spots on concrete floor.	