

Cleaning Mold from Hard Surfaces

To prevent mold from returning, you must first eliminate the moisture sources that caused the mold. For personal protection, especially if the mold growth is extensive, wear a respirator with an N-95 or P-100 rating (to avoid breathing airborne mold spores), goggles without ventilation holes, and gloves made of natural rubber, neoprene, nitrile, polyurethane, or PVC.

Clean the surface with a solution of 1/3 cup low-suds household cleanser or laundry detergent (no ammonia) per 1 gallon of water, using a brush or sponge. Rinse with a solution of 1 cup of unscented liquid chlorine bleach per 1 gallon of water. Scrub with a brush. Rinse again with clean water and let dry. You can use a fan to speed drying.

As a preventative step to keep the mold from growing back after you clean it off, mix a solution of 2 cups of borax laundry booster in 5 gallons of hot water. Stir until the borax is dissolved and then add 1 pint of isopropyl "rubbing" alcohol.

Apply this solution with a sponge, pump sprayer or pressure washer. There is no need to worry about toxicity or what it will do to nearby plants and building materials. The benefits are that you don't have to rinse, and the residual borax left behind is a potent fungicide that will not harm pets or children. The alcohol smell after applying should dissipate quickly, especially when outdoors. The alcohol is a necessary antiseptic and drying agent.