



Control of Mould and Fungal Growth in and Under Flooded Houses

Introduction

Red Cross has a long history in helping people before, during and after an emergency. The Red Cross Emergency REDiPlan Project aims to provide people with quality advisory information to help them recover from an emergency.

This information sheet is one of a range of products provided in good faith to assist people recover from floods. If you **do not feel confident** in undertaking these tasks you should always seek the advice of professional services.

Before undertaking these tasks you should always contact your insurer.

Tackling mould

The most effective methods to use to prevent mould and fungal growth occurring are the most obvious ones. These are to dry and ventilate flood affected areas as quickly as possible. The use and effectiveness of chemical treatments has not been demonstrated and may delay the drying process.

Under the House

Fungal and mould growth will occur in wood as it is drying out, so the best thing to do is to speed up this process. This can be achieved by improving the ventilation under the house, by clearing debris from ventilation grills and subfloor areas. Forced ventilation, such as air conditioners or industrial fans can be used in areas where there is not sufficient cross flow of air. Removal of plinth boards or inspection doors can also improve ventilation.

Inside the House

Inside surfaces may be cleaned with normal domestic products designed for this purpose. Repeat the application after 24–48 hours. This will destroy mould and fungi that were not killed in the first application.

A final reminder

Remember, recovery is a long and sometimes tiring process. So you should make sure that you look after yourself. For further advice on looking after yourself, see our booklet ***Coping with a major personal crisis***



Further information
www.redcross.org.au

Information Sheet

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