

MOLD CLEANING

RESOURCES

SAFESTART ENVIRONMENTAL

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PREPARATION OF HOME PRIOR TO FOGGING OR VENTILATION TREATMENTS OF AIR

Listed below are suggested guidelines for preparing the home for cleaning and remediating surfaces of the home and content to prepare for cleaning all particulate and contaminating materials from the air of the home.

In most cases, as in the items below, we recommend the steps be followed as described. In some cases we recommend alternate methods for other professionals to be involved in the preparation. Decisions in these matters are left to the client/patient based on the guidance of their physician and air quality expert, relative to the degree of severity of their condition and conditions in the home. Of course doing the ultimate is always the best, but may not in all cases be required. At this time there is not a large amount of empirical evidence in matters of these decisions; however, it is our opinion that there are practical solutions, which may be tailored to an individual's needs.

A large degree of the cost of preparation may be prevented by the patient performing levels of preparation themselves. In some cases, the patient may be too compromised to do the work or not be physically able.

In some cases, it is our opinion, with the physician's authorization, that the patient may do some of this preparation work themselves, provided they protect themselves with a grade P100 respirator over nose and mouth and wear Nitrile gloves while performing the work. In the steps below, we indicate things, which in our opinion may be performed by the patient if desired along with the physician's authorization.

Elizma Lambert
CONNECTING THE DOTS

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The sequence in which these preparation steps take place is important in the overall goodness of the work. We will present information in the sequence we feel things should be performed.

RECOMMENDED STEPS:

The first grouping of steps below may be performed in any order:

1. Regarding framed wall hangings such as artwork, photos, etc.:

Remove the hangings from the walls. Wipe the frames with a solution of one cup of borax per gallon of water with a terry cloth rag and then a light clear water wipe down and dry.

If there is glass over the artwork, perform the same wipe downs on the glass.

If there is no glass, we recommend a light dusting with compressed air from a can such as that used to clean dust off of computers.

We recommend that the framed hangings be wrapped in plastic and sealed and placed in another area such as in the garage temporarily.

2. Lamps and lampshades:

The bases of most lamps are nonporous materials. Wipe the bases of the lamps with the two-step borax and water method described above and let dry.

If the lamp shades are pleated and/or inexpensive, dispose of them by placing in a heavy gauge plastic bag which should be tied prior to removal for disposal.

If the lamp shades are desired to be kept, treat in the garage or outdoors by spraying with a light spray of compressed air from the can as described above. If the patient's physician considers the patient to be at a higher level risk, consider disposing of the lampshades.

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RECOMMENDED STEPS:

3. Knick-Knacks:

Dealing with knickknacks by the patient will save a large degree of fees that the remediator would charge to deal with these time-consuming items. We recommend that the patients deal with these items themselves.

These items may be set out independently on tables or furniture, or they may be grouped in large numbers on shelves and furniture such as a hutch.

Our first recommendation is to go through these and categorize into those, which you are willing to part with, those which you may be willing to part with, and those which you need to keep. After you have disposed of the items you are willing to part with, go through the second category with the same thought and decide if any of those can be disposed of. What is left in the third category are items that need to be wiped down with the two-step wiping as described above. We then recommend that those items be wrapped and stored in a container with a cover and moved to another area such as the garage.

We then recommend performing the two-step wiping process on the shelves and exterior of the furniture or hutch that they were sitting on to begin with. We then recommend having the remediator seal the opening to the furniture with painter's grade plastic sheeting with blue painter's tape.

4. Kitchen Cabinets:

We recommend that the patient remove items from the kitchen cabinets such as dishware, glasses etc. and run them through the dishwasher. While that is going on, we recommend that the client wipe down the shelves and interior of the cabinets with the two-step wipe described above.



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RECOMMENDED STEPS:

Other items in the kitchen cabinets should be taken out and either wiped down as described above or be taken to a garage or outdoors where they may be blown off with compressed air and then put in containers and sealed and kept out of the home until after treatments have been completed. The remediator, as part of their work, will wipe down the exterior and exterior doors of the cabinets.

5. Books:

Go through the books and if there are any no longer needed or desired, we recommend that they be disposed of as described above.

If the books have paper covers, we recommend that they be either disposed of or wiped down with the two-step wipe treatment described above. If the books do not have paper covers, perform the two-step wipe down described above. We recommend HEPA vacuuming the edges of the book where the pages are compressed together.

Assuming the books are kept in a bookcase, or a shelf, we recommend that after the books have been cleaned, that they be put in a sealed container and moved out of the home during treatments. We then recommend that the shelves in bookcase be wiped down as described above.

6. Appliances:

Wipe down the exterior of appliances such as washer, dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, etc. with the two-step treatment described above.



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Regarding clothes washing machines, we recommend having a service person out to replace the rubber gasket ring on frontloading machines, and to wipe clean any mold from surfaces around the drum. As clothes are brought out of the machine and mold transfers to them into the dryer these particles will get disturbed into the air.

If refrigerators that are not built in can be moved out without damaging flooring or breaking icemaker lines, we recommend that the patient have a service person out to move out the refrigerator so that the floor and walls in that area can be properly wiped down and cleaned.

7. Bedding:

If pillows are common and inexpensive, we recommend disposing of them as described above and replacing them later. If it is decided they be kept, they should be HEPA vacuumed.

We recommend that sheets and pillowcases be washed in the clothes washer with laundry borax as well as detergent.

Comforters and heavy blankets should be sent to the cleaners for washing or cleaning.

Mattress surfaces should be HEPA vacuumed.

8. Pianos:

If pianos have an air opening to the internal strings and cords, an expert in this field should be utilized for cleaning the interior of the piano; otherwise the exterior surfaces can be wiped with the two-step treatment and dried.



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9. Furniture:

Upholstered furniture should be HEPA vacuumed.

Hard surface furniture should be wiped with the two-step process described above.

10. Electronics:

We recommend that the patient disconnect all the wiring from the electronics such as TVs, computers, copiers, stereo equipment etc. The wiring should be wiped down and put in a container to be sealed and moved to another area until treatments have been completed.

Any electronics on tabletops should be moved off of them so the tabletops can be wiped down as described above. We recommend that the patient perform these steps.

We recommend that the exterior of electronic components be wiped down as described above. If the components generate a large degree of heat, we recommend that an electronics cleaning firm pick up the equipment to have the interior of the electronics properly cleaned so that the generation of heat will not emit contaminants into the air when utilized. The performance of this should be discussed with the expert/physician based on the results of testing in the home and the medical condition.

11. Windows and window coverings:

If there are inexpensive ready to hang blinds on windows or inexpensive draperies or curtains, we recommend disposing of them as described above. If the drapes or curtains are washable or dry cleanable, and desired to be, we recommend that they be washed with borax and detergent or dry-cleaned. We find it preferable to not have them hanging during the treatments to the air.



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RECOMMENDED STEPS:

If there are attached valences of fabric over the window tops, we recommend that they be HEPA vacuumed and then covered the sealed with painters plastic to the walls.

If there are more expensive custom blinds over windows, we recommend that they be carefully wiped and cleaned, or utilize a company that would pick up the blinds and have them cleaned ultrasonically and brought back later for reinstallation.

The remediator will do a cleaning of the window frames and windows

12. Closets and Clothing:

Depending on the results of testing in the home and opinions of the expert in the physician, there are different levels of dealing with closets and clothing.

In most cases we recommend that the patient remove boxes and items from shelves in the closet and perform the wipe downs and the moving of those items either wrapped or in plastic covered containers to another area such as the garage.

If there are plastic coverings over clothing from previous cleaning, those should be kept in place.

Regarding shoes, we recommend that they be wiped down depending on the type of material they are made of. In some cases we might recommend HEPA vacuuming or blowing off with compressed air.

We then recommend that the remediator set up a fan in the closet from the back end, blowing air outside the door of the closet. While this is going on we recommend that the remediator use compressed air to blow dust and materials off of the clothing and other items off of those items and out of the closet.



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RECOMMENDED STEPS:

We then recommend the remediator seal off the entry to the closet with six mil plastic sheeting and painters tape.

The next several items should be performed after the above items have been performed in sequence below:

13. Walls:

If it is possible for the patient to do it, we recommend that they dust the walls in the home and then using a damp mop swifter on a pole, wipe down the walls to remove films and contaminants from the surfaces. If the patient doesn't do it, this is a necessary step for the remediator.

14. Carpeting and floors:

If there is carpeting, especially in the basement, we recommend that it be removed in containment after being sprayed with water in a process described to the remediator to be performed in a manner not to generate quantities of contaminants into the air. We then recommend the remediator perform a wash and rinse on the floor underneath. A discussion with the air quality expert/physician will help determine if this is recommended to be done for you.

In general, we prefer the homes of patients with these conditions to not have carpeting in the homes. When carpeting is walked on, dust and other materials are kicked up into the air. If carpeting is to be kept, we recommend treating it as follows prior to treatments to the air:

HEPA vacuum the carpets. This will remove certain levels of particulates from the carpet, however smaller particles than HEPA size will be kicked out into the air, which will be treated by the treatments to the air, which will follow.



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RECOMMENDED STEPS:

Vacuum and then perform the two-step wipe on hard surface floors under the carpeting that was removed, following the processes described above.

Now cover all the floors and carpets in the home with plastic sheeting, overlapping junctions and taping together. Lay a lighter level of plastics such as painters plastic over the heavier plastic below which may be removed gently and not disperse any contaminants that come out from the air treatments, when the plastic is removed and placed in heavy bags for proper disposal. It is recommended that this step be performed by the remediator.

15. The remediator will cover all furniture and items in the home including windows, etc with a painter's grade of plastic sheeting and seal with painters tape.

16. Have the ductwork in the home cleaned by a professional firm that follows the protocols of the National Association of Duct Cleaners. Then seal the HVAC registers with six mil plastic sheeting and painters tape. The remediator can help seal off these registers if desired.

17. Change the furnace filter in homes that have a forced air HVAC system.

At this point, the home is ready for air treatments that the remediator will perform.

After air treatments have been performed, a new furnace filter should be put in the system and the covers over the HVAC registers may be removed and disposed of. The HVAC system may now be put back into service.

The remediator should tape heavy gauge plastic disposal bags laid flat, to various surfaces of walls and floors on different levels of the home. These should be left there for 10 days to 2 weeks to collect new dust for post testing. We recommend post testing HERTSMI-2 dust test as well as an outdoor sample to compare against.

