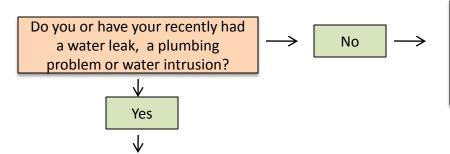
## **MOLD AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE**



It is very important to fix the source of the moisture prior to cleaning up any mold. After the water source has been eliminated, follow these cleaning tips:

- 1. Dry out as much as you can within 24-48 hours of the leak or water event.
- 2. Throw away any porous items that have been submerged or saturated.
- 3. Clean hard surfaces with a mild detergent. It is not necessary to use bleach to clean mold, but if you choose to use bleach to remove stains or odor, use no more than ¼ Cup of bleach for each gallon of water. Keep the surface wet for 15 minutes and rinse with clean water.
- 4. Ventilate the area with a fan or by opening a window.
- 5. Make sure any remaining materials or surfaces are completely dry before proceeding with repair work.

If you rent, contact your landlord if you have a water or moisture issue. If your landlord does not provide assistance, you can contact your municipal rental housing inspection agency or lowa Legal Aid (1-800-532-1275) to get more information about your rights under the lowa Landlord and Tenant law.

Your home may have unusually high humidity. Consider purchasing a humidistat and/or dehumidifier. Keep the humidity inside your home between 30-60% to discourage mold growth.

How can I test my home for mold?

The best way to detect mold is to use your senses. If you smell something musty or you see visible mold, then you have a moisture problem. Testing is not recommended because there are no standards to interpret the results, and knowing the species of mold isn't useful. Most importantly, if you have mold you need to take the steps to clean it up.

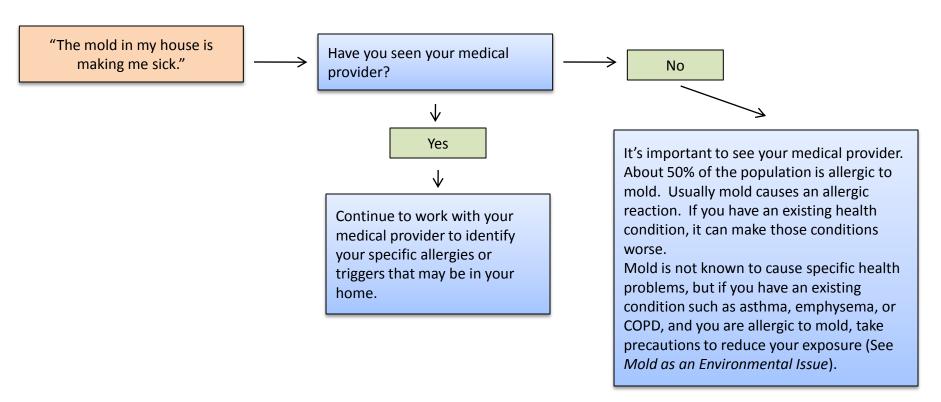
## Other resources:

- Centers for Disease control and Prevention <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/health/mold.html">http://www.cdc.gov/health/mold.html</a>
- •Environmental Protection Agency <a href="http://www.epa.gov/mold/">http://www.epa.gov/mold/</a>
- National Center for Healthy Housing www.nchh.org

Iowa Department of Public Health Healthy Homes Initiative http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/healthy\_homes.asp



## **MOLD AS A HEALTH ISSUE**



## Other resources:

- Centers for Disease control and Prevention <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/health/mold.html">http://www.cdc.gov/health/mold.html</a>
- •Environmental Protection Agency <a href="http://www.epa.gov/mold/">http://www.epa.gov/mold/</a>
- •National Center for Healthy Housing www.nchh.org

