

# Absolute Resource

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associates



**If you have recently experienced a flood or “water event”, there are some important things you must do right away to avoid a mold problem. The main thing to remember is this: mold needs moisture. So to get rid of mold, or to prevent it from growing, you must first eliminate all sources of moisture. Here is a basic mold checklist that we provide to our clients. If you have any questions, give us a call, we are here to help!**

## **Mold Checklist**

- Within 24 to 48 hours of any water event, you should remove all wet items, including sheetrock, carpet, furniture, etc. Discard anything that cannot be cleaned and dried. Work quickly, time is working against you.
- If you see mold growing on an item or surface that can be cleaned, use water and detergent, and dry it completely.
- Moldy absorbent materials (such as ceiling tiles or carpeting) should be replaced.
- Do not bring anything back into the space until it is clean and completely dry.
- Rent, buy or borrow a sump pump, shop vacuum, buckets or siphon hoses, whatever you can find to remove standing water from the space.
- Use industrial blowers, dehumidifiers, fans, open windows and vents, etc. to remove the remaining moisture.
- If you don't have one, purchase a hygrometer at your local hardware store (costs less than \$30). After you have done all of the above steps, close all windows and measure your indoor humidity. Ideally it should be about 30 to 60%. If it is higher than 60%, mold is likely to grow. Continue working to remove the moisture from the area and keep measuring until you can get the humidity below 60%.
- A few preventative measures to keep in mind: for areas prone to water problems, use dehumidifiers to control humidity, avoid carpeting or materials made from wood, and eliminate condensation by installing plenty of insulation.

*Remember, there is no way to eliminate all mold from the indoor environment.  
The best way to control mold is to control moisture.*

Good luck, and if you have any questions along the way, give us a call.

### **About Absolute Resource Associates:**

Absolute Resource Associates (ARA) provides a broad range of environmental services to clients throughout New England and beyond, including Environmental Laboratory Testing, Indoor Air Quality Services and Environmental Project Management. Indoor Air Quality services include: IAQ Consultations, Mold Inspections, IAQ Investigations, Air & Surface Sample Collection & Analysis, Water Damage & Water Intrusion Identification, Remediation Planning, Follow Up & Clearance Testing, Building Envelope/Siding Failure Inspections, Moisture Surveys, Lead XRF Surveys, Asbestos Investigations and Asbestos Abatement, HVAC Performance, Insulation Checks, Infrared Imaging, Services to the Healthcare Industry, Facility Evaluations for Health & Safety and more. ARA CEO Guy Sylvester is a Board Certified IAQ Professional, Director of the Manchester chapter of the New Hampshire Indoor Air Quality Association and author of the popular mold handbook for homeowners titled, "[Mold: Myth or Monster?](#)"

ARA is a Woman Owned SBA 8(a), WOSB, EDWOSB, SDB, DBE, NELAC, ISO/IEC 17025 and DoD ELAP accredited small business

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