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It is the specialty of a water damage restoration company such as **AFTERDISASTER®** to respond quickly (sometimes even before the plumbing repairs are completed) to provide emergency services necessary to mitigate the damage:

- Containment of the source.
- Protection of structure and contents not yet affected but in harm's way.
- Cleaning.
- Decontamination, including mold remediation and sewage remediation.
- Deodorization.
- Drying.

Once the disaster is stabilized and the need for emergency services is past, the water damage restoration company will inspect the structure and contents for damage. Repairs and more detailed cleaning may be performed to restore the structure and contents to pre-loss condition.

For many years, plumbing and restoration companies had little communication between them. This has been changing rapidly for several reasons:

- Customers feel abandoned when the plumber completes his work and leaves, but everything is still wet. They ask him for advice. The more the plumber knows about restoration companies, the better he can assist his customer.
- Insurance companies want faster response by the restoration companies in order to reduce the cost of claims.
- Sometimes the restoration company is on a job and discovers the service of a plumber is needed.

The more the restoration company knows about the plumbing companies in the area, the better it can assist the customer.

- Many times the plumber opens a wall cavity to access a section of plumbing needing repair. He discovers

1. The flooded upstairs bathroom caused this ceiling to buckle.

2. Continued high moisture levels in a water damage delaminated this antique desk.

3. Besides air movers and dehumidifiers, **AFTERDISASTER** utilizes specifically designed drying equipment to most effectively dry structures. This Ulmer drying unit dries the subfloor of the kitchen and the ceiling of the garage after a ruptured ice maker line floods the kitchen.

4. When a water damage is left unattended, mold can grow on furniture.

5. This closet shows extensive mold growth (due to wicking) after the bathroom toilet (next door) overflowed.

6. Mold grows on the cinder blocks next to a leaking pipe.

Mold growth inside the walls after a water damage.

After a bathroom toilet leak, the floor joist and subfloor exhibit mold growth.

Mold grows quickly after an unattended water damage.

A leaking hot water heater caused mold growth on the walls.

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Standards & Protocols in Mold Remediation

Who's mold remediation standards and protocols should we follow? This question perplexes every restoration company trying to offer mold remediation services.

As discussed in recent articles, there is presently no national standard for mold remediation. Most mold remediation service providers have studied the standards and protocols used by New York City Health Department, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA) and specific jobs performed in California and Texas. Professional organizations such as the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) and Association of Specialists in Cleaning and Restoration (ASCR) have published articles advancing their own versions of methods and standards. The restoration company seeking certification in mold remediation by these professional organizations quickly discovers the cost for training, testing and certification may exceed several thousand dollars per technician, per course. In addition, certification in mold remediation by one professional organization is usually not recognized for certification by another organization. Until the national standard is written and approved, most restoration companies such as **AFTERDISASTER®** must attend all the programs available to try to stay as current as possible and at the same time meet as many of the common standards and protocols in mold remediation as possible.

After much training, research and reflection, **AFTERDISASTER** has developed mold remediation standards we believe will meet our customers' needs. In the event a microbiologist, industrial hygienist or other related professional is engaged in a specific mold remediation job, we will follow his/her protocols and standards to achieve desired compliance.

Typical mold remediation services generally include:

- Containment of mold in affected areas, including use of air scrubbers/negative air units with HEPA filtration, to prevent further contamination.
- Removal and safe disposal of unsalvageable materials.
- High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuuming to remove dry particulate of mold affected areas.
- Wet cleaning of affected areas using detergents recommended for mold remediation.
- Application of an antimicrobial approved by EPA for mold remediation.
- Drying of the structure to safe moisture levels (determined by hygrometer measurement).

Due to continued heightened awareness and increased liability concerning mold, it is important you are confident your restoration company is well certified. Contact your local **AFTERDISASTER** Business Center today to discuss your specific mold remediation needs.

Jerry Jones, Certified Restorer,
Certified Mold Remediator

