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**HOW TO CLEAN YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS THAT
HAVE BEEN IN A MOLDY HOUSE**

If your home or apartment has a mold problem, it is important to identify the source of moisture, fix the problem and then properly remove and clean up the moldy and water damaged materials. Here are some suggestions on how to clean your personal belongings:

It is best to remove the items and clean and disinfect them in a covered area remote from the house. The items should not be returned to the home until the mold remediation work is completed and all construction is finished.

Items with visible mold growth:

1. Replaceable belongings with visible mold on them should be discarded.
2. Porous items with visible mold growth (shoes, clothes and furniture) can be difficult to effectively clean and may also need to be discarded.
3. Non-porous items can be HEPA vacuumed and cleaned with a mild detergent in warm water.

Items that have been exposed to airborne mold spores:

4. Soft materials such as **clothing and bedding** should be washed in 130° F water or HEPA vacuumed and dry-cleaned. **THAT'S 130 DEGREES IN THE MACHINE!** (Dry cleaning does not guarantee the removal of mold spores.)
5. Soft furniture and rugs must be thoroughly HEPA vacuumed and 190° F steam cleaned or replaced.
6. Mattress should be discarded, or HEPA vacuumed and encased in a barrier cloth cover (order from an Allergy Resource Catalog). If the mattress is to be encased in a barrier cloth cover, all sides of the mattress should be HEPA vacuumed.
7. Old pillows should be discarded and replaced. New pillows should be HEPA vacuumed or washed in 130° F water and then encased with barrier cloth covers.
8. Books and other porous materials should be HEPA vacuumed twice.
9. Hard surface items should HEPA vacuumed and disinfected with a professional disinfectant, Quaternary Ammonium (Quat) or 10% solution of chlorine bleach in water (½ cup of bleach/gallon).