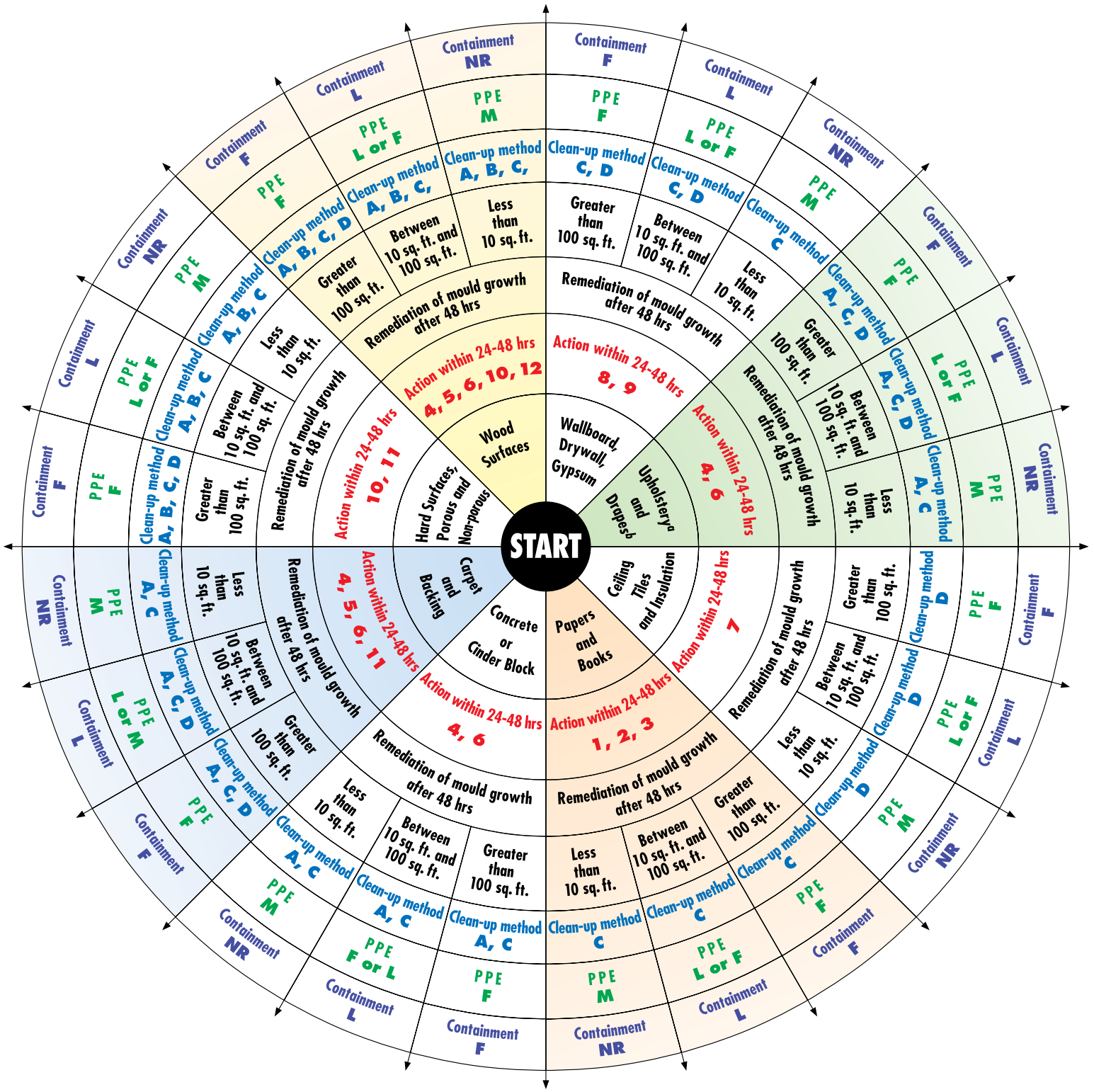
Mould Remediation

Depending on type of material and extent of contamination



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Mould Remediation

Depending on type of material and extent of contamination

Action within 24-48 hrs

Actions are for damage caused by clean water. If you know or suspect that water is contaminated by sewage or chemical or biological pollutants, consult a professional. Do not use fans unless the water is clean or sanitary. If mould has grown or materials have been wet for more than 48 hours, consult **Clean-up Method** in chart.

1. Discard non-valuable items.
2. Photocopy valuable items, then discard.
3. Freeze (in frost-free freezer or meat locker) or freeze-dry.
4. Remove water with water-extraction vacuum.
5. Reduce humidity levels with dehumidifiers.
6. Accelerate drying process with fans and/or heaters.
   - Don't use heat to dry carpet.
   - Use caution applying heat to hardwood floors.
7. Discard and replace.
8. May be dried in place, if there is no swelling and the seams are intact. If not, then discard and replace.
9. Ventilate wall cavity.
10. For all treated or finished woods, porous (linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl) and non-porous (metal, plastic) hard surfaces, vacuum or damp-wipe with water or water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary.
11. For porous flooring and carpets, make sure that subfloor is dry. If necessary clean and dry subfloor material according to chart.
12. Wet paneling should be pried away from walls for drying.

Clean-up Methods

Methods are for damage caused by clean water. If you know or suspect that water is contaminated by sewage or chemical or biological pollutants, consult a professional. These are guidelines only. Other cleaning methods may be preferred by some professionals. Consult **Action within 24-48 hrs** in the chart if materials have been wet for less than 48 hours and mould growth is not apparent. If mould growth is not addressed promptly, some items may be damaged beyond repair. If necessary, consult a restoration specialist.

A. Wet-vacuum the material. (In porous material, some mould spores/fragments will remain but will not grow if material is completely dried.) Steam cleaning may be an alternative for carpets and some upholstered furniture.

B. Damp-wipe surfaces with water or with water and detergent solution (except wood - use wood floor cleaner); scrub as needed.

C. Use a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) vacuum once the material has been thoroughly dried. Dispose of HEPA-vacuum contents in well-sealed plastic bags.

D. Remove water-damaged materials and seal in plastic bags inside containment area, if there is one. Dispose of as normal waste. HEPA-vacuum area once it is dried.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

Use professional judgment to determine PPE for each situation, particularly as the size of the remediation site, and the potential for exposure and health effects, increase. Be prepared to raise PPE requirements if contamination is more extensive than expected.

M Minimum - Gloves, N-95 respirator, goggles/eye protection.

L Limited - Gloves, N-95 respirator or half-face respirator with HEPA filter, disposable overalls, goggles/eye protection.

F Full - Gloves, disposable full-body clothing, head gear, foot coverings, full-face respirator with HEPA filter.

Containment

Use professional judgment to determine containment for each situation, particularly as the size of the remediation site, and the potential for exposure and health effects, increase.

NR None Required

L Limited – From floor to ceiling, enclose affected area in polyethylene sheeting with slit entry and covering flap. Maintain area under negative pressure with HEPA-filtered fan. Block supply and return air vents in containment area.

F Full - Use two layers of fire-retardant polyethylene sheeting with one airlock chamber. Maintain area under negative pressure with HEPA-filtered fan exhausted outside of building. Block supply and return air vents in containment area.

Notes

a) Upholstery may be difficult to dry within 48 hours. For items with monetary or sentimental value, consult a restoration specialist.

b) Follow manufacturer's laundering instructions.

With grateful acknowledgment, based on ***Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings,*** published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, March 2001.

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