

IMPORTANT TIPS

- Painting or caulking over mold will not prevent it from growing.
- Be sure to identify and fix the source of moisture that led to the flooding.
- Throw away items that can't be cleaned and dried.
- Shower and change your clothes after working on mold cleanup.
- Use your phone to take pictures of wet or moldy documents or keepsakes so you have a digital version available.
- Check with your local municipality about how to dispose of debris.



galvestoncountyrecovery.org

HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO MOLD RECOVERY



GALVESTONCOUNTYRECOVERS.ORG



GCHD.ORG/RECOVERY

[@GCHDINFO](https://twitter.com/GCHDINFO)

DID YOUR HOME FLOOD?

If so, and you were unable to clean and completely dry it within 24-48 hours, there is a strong chance of **mold growth**.

You need to **completely dry everything, clean up the mold and fix the moisture problem**.

MOLD CAN LOOK LIKE SPOTS.

IT CAN BE MANY DIFFERENT COLORS AND IT CAN SMELL RUSTY.



HEALTH EFFECTS OF MOLD

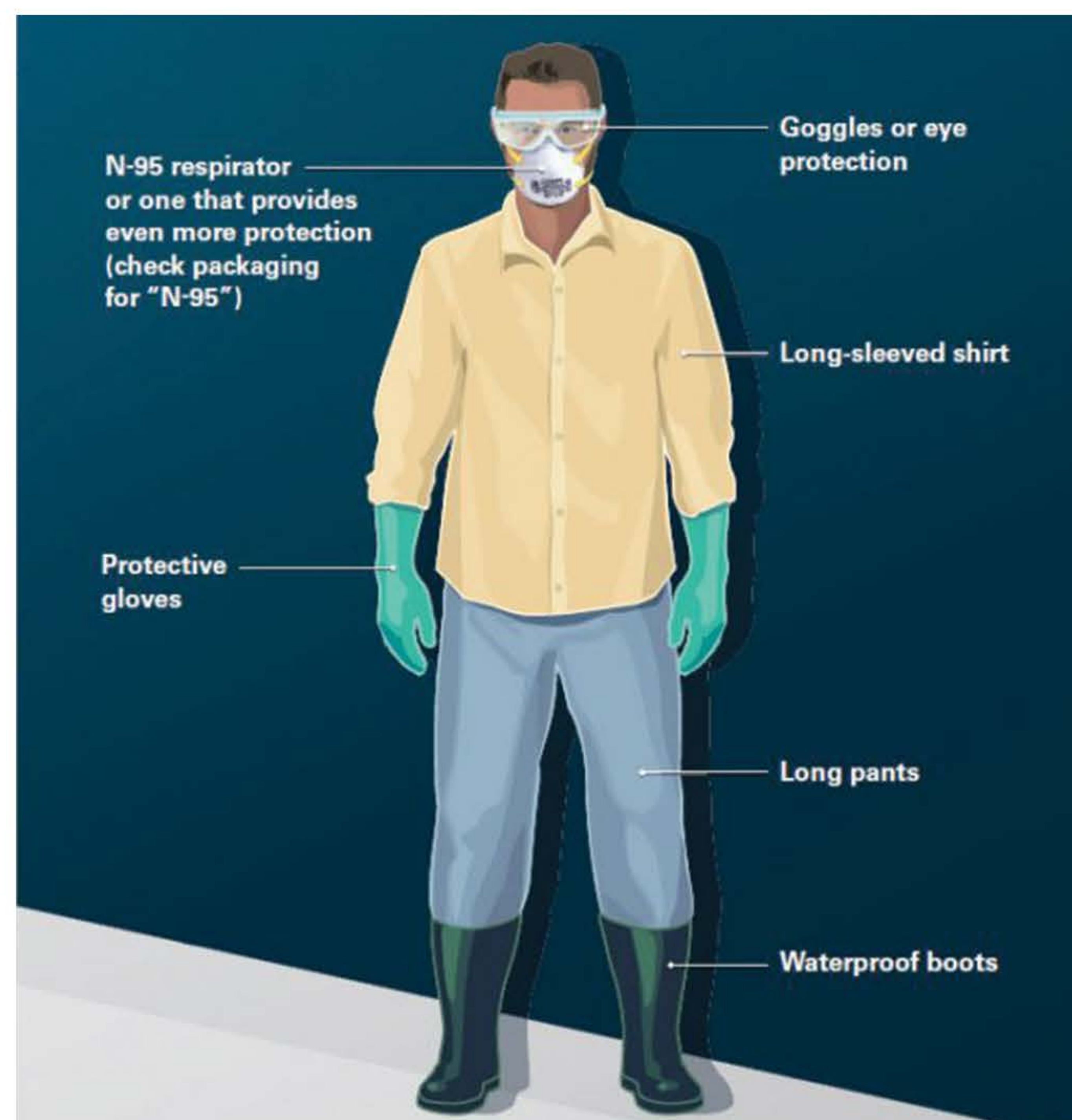
Exposure to mold can lead to:

- **asthma attacks**
- **eye and skin irritation**
- **allergic reactions**
- **infections in people with weak immune systems**

PREPARING FOR CLEANUP

- **Do not re-enter your home** until you know there are no structural, electrical or other hazards.
- Keep children and those with breathing problems or weak immune systems **away from** disaster clean up work.
- Open doors and windows, and use fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture. **Do not use fans if mold has already started to grow. Fans will only spread the mold.**
- Remove standing water and wet materials and dry everything as quickly as possible.

WHAT TO WEAR DURING CLEANUP



CLEANING PRODUCTS

Mold can be scrubbed from hard surfaces with household products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than one cup of household bleach in one gallon of water.

Be sure to dry the cleaned surface immediately and completely.

CLEAN IT OR TOSS IT?

CLEAN IT

It's possible to remove mold from many hard surfaces including countertops, wood, plastic, ceramic, glass and concrete.

TOSS IT

Absorbent or porous items like carpet, sofas and drywall often need to be thrown away if they become moldy. The empty spaces and crevices in these materials make it difficult or impossible to completely remove mold.

PREVENTING MOLD GROWTH

Although there are various consumer products that can **help** prevent mold growth, **the key to preventing mold from returning is controlling moisture.**

Make sure the source of moisture that cause the mold is repaired.