

*For more information on IAQ/Mold issues and their solutions, please reference the book entitled **Mold-Free Construction™** by D. Douglas Hoffman, Executive Director of NORMI, available at [www.MoldFreeConstruction.com](http://www.MoldFreeConstruction.com). We believe you will find this book insightful and easy-to-follow as you continue to improve the environment indoors.*

## ***The SANITIZATION Protocol***

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“**BEYOND**”—This is taking the extra step of prevention. This list comprises suggestions for keeping your home clean so mold will not have a chance to get a foothold. Some of these may seem “extreme measures” but have proven to be invaluable in maintaining a mold-free environment. Use these, as you will...

- 1) Keep the premises clean and regularly dust, vacuum, and mop.
- 2) Install an air purifier in the home to maintain good indoor air quality and reduce dust. (It important that you consult with an IAQ Specialist so you can take a holistic approach to the myriad of indoor air contaminants that exist. A multi-strategic approach is the most effective way to reduce indoor air pollutants)
- 3) Use hood vents when cooking, cleaning, and dishwashing.
- 4) Keep closet doors ajar, where possible, to increase airflow in the closets or install vented doors.
- 5) Avoid excessive amounts of indoor plants.
- 6) Use exhaust fans when bathing/showering.
- 7) Leave exhaust fans on long enough to remove moisture from the room.
- 8) Use ceiling fans.
- 9) Water all indoor plants outdoors, if possible.
- 10) Wipe down any moisture and/or spillage.
- 11) Wipe down bathroom walls and fixtures after bathing/showering. There are some good products out there for this very purpose.
- 12) Wipe down any vanities/sink tops.
- 13) Avoid drying clothes by hand drying indoors.
- 14) Avoid air-drying dishes.
- 15) Open blinds/curtains to allow light into premises.



- 16) Wipe down floors after any water spillage.
- 17) Hang shower curtains within the bath when showering.
- 18) Securely close shower doors, if present, when showering.
- 19) Leave bathroom and showers door open after use.
- 20) Use dryer if present for wet towels.
- 21) Use household cleaners (we prefer biodegradable enzyme cleaners and other green technologies) on any hard surfaces.
- 22) Remove any moldy or rotting food
- 23) Remove garbage regularly.
- 24) Wipe down any and all visible signs of moisture.
- 25) Regularly scan the ceiling for evidence of roof leaks.
- 26) Periodically check the air conditioning vents to be sure they are clean.
- 27) Change the air conditioning filter regularly.
- 28) Perform scheduled maintenance on your air conditioning system, including, but not limited to, cleaning the evaporator coil.
- 29) Wipe down windows and sills if moisture is present.
- 30) Regularly, inspect for leaks under the sinks and around the base of the water closets, around the washing machine and water heater.
- 31) Check all washer hoses and outside garden hose connections.
- 32) Regularly empty dehumidifier.
- 33) Clean behind the refrigerator and around the air conditioning air handler if possible.
- 34) Empty the refrigerator condensation pan where possible.
- 35) If possible, pour a small amount of bleach in the drip pan of the air conditioning air handler to decrease the potential for mold growth.
- 36) Answer this question regularly and check for the signs of mold: "If I were mold and liked moisture, where would I feel most comfortable to set up a home and build a family?"

It is our opinion that these recommendations will substantially improve the indoor air environment of your home and, as in addition, reduce the potential for mold or other IAQ problems in the future. There is no "over-night" solution but we believe the improvement will be significant and, over a relatively short period of time, the occupants and visitors in your home will feel better about their environment. If we may be of further service to you in the future, please do not hesitate to call. We appreciate your business and thank you for choosing a NORMI Professional.

