

# How to Prevent Bathroom Mold

Using these techniques for eliminating bathroom moisture can help keep it under control.

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After a bath or a shower, squeegee water off the shower walls. That eliminates at least three-fourths of the moisture that supports mold and mildew growth.





Run your bath exhaust fan during your bath or shower and for 30 minutes after to flush out moisture. You can also add a timer switch to make this step automatic. Check the CFM volume of your fan, usually marked on a label under the grill. Replace it with a larger model if it's too small for the size of your bathroom.

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If you have tile, seal the grout lines annually with a standard grout sealer to waterproof them.

To get rid of the current bathroom mold, scrub with detergent and water, then let the surface dry completely. You can also use a solution of 10 percent bleach and 90 percent water (a stronger bleach solution will not give better results). Spray or brush on the solution, let it sit 10 minutes, then rinse it off and let dry.

If the fans aren't clearing out most of the moisture in your bathrooms after five to 10 minutes, your fans may not be moving enough air. Fans are certified by the volume (cfm, or cubic feet per minute) of air "exhausted" out of the room. To find the recommended fan capacity for your bathroom, simply multiply the bathroom square footage by 1.1 (assuming an 8-ft. ceiling; for a 9-ft. ceiling, multiply by 1.5).

