



This fact sheet applies to personal property shipments moving under the Defense Personal Property System (DPS) and Tender of Service (ToS). If you are moving under the Global Household Goods Contract (GHC), visit [MilitaryOneSource.mil/GHC](https://militaryonesource.mil/GHC) for similar program-related resources or contact your local transportation office for assistance.

Mold is part of the natural environment and can be found everywhere. It usually isn't a problem, unless it begins growing in your home or on your personal property. A contaminated personal property shipment can spread mold to other cargo or personal property shipments that are in a trailer, warehouse, or ship.

If you or a family member has an existing health condition that might be exacerbated by exposure to mold, have the condition medically-documented prior to your move and immediately inform all parties (moving company, Transportation Office (TO), Military Claims Office (MCO)) at the first sign of mold. This documentation will need to be provided to the MCO upon request when addressing a mold contaminated shipment.

## What happens if mold is discovered during your move?

### 1 During Pack or Pickup

If there are signs of mold contamination your moving company will not pack or pick up your shipment. If this occurs, contact your local TO for guidance.

Your TO will likely provide you with the following options:

- Dispose of the items identified as contaminated with mold.
- At your personal expense; hire a company that specializes in mold sampling, mold assessment testing (air sampling or tape tests), and interpreting results to verify mold. The company will provide a copy of the mold testing results for your records. *Prior to ordering mold assessment testing, confirm the type of test your moving company will accept.*
  - If the mold test is negative, contact your local TO to provide a copy of the mold testing results and schedule your shipment to be packed and picked up.
  - If the mold test is positive you may consider:
    - Disposing of the items identified as contaminated with mold.
    - Having your property remediated of mold at your personal expense by a third party company. Remediation of your property must be completed before pack and pick up of your shipment can be performed by the moving company. After remediation of your property you will need to provide a copy of the remediation certificate to your moving company and the local TO to continue with the packing or picking up of your personal property.

### 2 During Shipment In Transit

If mold is discovered while your move is in transit, your moving company will contact you, the servicing MCO, the inspecting TO, and the destination TO to provide an update with the mold test results.

- Onward movement of your property will continue to a location as determined by the moving company and responsible TO. The TO will arrange for a Quality Assurance (QA) Inspector (if possible) to be available at the selected location within two business days and be present when your personal property containers are opened and tested by the remediation firm for mold. At your expense, you can request to be present to witness the sorting and identification of potentially mold-infested property.
- The moving company in possession of your shipment at the time mold is discovered on your property is responsible for any associated mitigation or remediation, if authorized by the MCO.

### 3 During Delivery

If mold is discovered during the delivery of your property, immediately contact your local TO by phone. Delivery must be halted, and no more property will be placed in your residence. The moving company will immediately reload all your property on the transport vehicle to prevent contamination of your residence. The delivery company will transport your property to a storage location and await further guidance.

#### Mold Contaminated Items of Sentimental or Special Value

- The remediation firm and/or MCO may determine that some items are unsuitable for cleaning or remediation. The items identified could be of sentimental or special value to you.
- At your discretion, and in coordination with your TO, the moving company will offer you the opportunity to examine your property and remove items of sentimental or special value. Note, the moving company may require you to sign a waiver releasing them from personal injury liability for claiming mold contaminated items.

#### Mitigation vs. Remediation of Mold

**Mitigation:** steps taken to prevent or reduce the severity of mold contamination, i.e., wiping down or drying off wet items or separation of items contaminated with mold from uncontaminated items.

**Remediation:** steps taken by a professional mold remediation firm to clean items that have been contaminated by mold. This requires prior approval from the MCO to be completed.

*Note: Heavily contaminated porous items (e.g., carpets, rugs, mattresses, cloth or clothing, some wood and wood products, some ceramic items, and soft plastic) may not be able to be remediated.*



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## Personal Property Delivery - Mold Remediation Process

The moving company will hire a firm that specializes in mold sampling, testing, and interpreting results to verify mold.

1. If the mold test is negative, the moving company will advise you, the local TO, and MCO. Delivery of your property will then be rescheduled.
2. If the mold test is positive, the moving company will advise you, the local TO, and MCO. The remediation firm will provide an itemized salvageable and unsalvageable report. The servicing MCO will review the facts (service member health issues, if any, costs of remediation versus value, etc.) and either provide the moving company authorization to begin remediation of your mold contaminated items or will state that remediation is not authorized. The MCO determination is final.
3. Once remediation is complete, you will be given the opportunity to inspect the remediated items. You can accept all, some, or none of the remediated items. If the TSP does not agree with any items that you refuse to accept, the MCO will make the final determination whether remediation was successful or not. However, the MCO may determine remediation efforts on your items are acceptable and advise you that further refusals to accept delivery of the acceptable items may result in a denial of any claim for loss or damage to those items. You may file a claim on the remediated items that are determined to be unacceptable.
4. The moving company is also responsible for redelivering the accepted remediated items and/or disposing of the items that cannot be remediated.
5. When the MCO determines that remediation is appropriate, claims reimbursement will be limited to the lesser of the remediation cost or Full Replacement Value. The cost of any remediation counts towards the moving company's maximum liability.

## Filing Mold-related Claims

Please be advised - the testing, and when authorized, the remediation will take some time to complete. In this situation, you may file a claim with your moving company for loss of essential items. Within 7 days from the date your goods were delivered, you must notify the moving company, MCO, and TO of the loss of essential items. Once you notify the moving company that an item is no longer usable due to mold, within two business days, they must pay for the items, provide temporary or permanent replacements, arrange a repair, or make other arrangements as agreed upon with you.

Essential items are only those items necessary for everyday living. You may either receive compensation to replace the items immediately or be provided with a temporary replacement or rental while your original item is being remediated. Essential items include, but are not limited to:

1. Refrigerators or other appliances necessary for the safe storage and preparation of food;
2. Necessary medical equipment;
3. Mattresses; and
4. Washer and dryer

You can also file an inconvenience claim with the moving company if the completion of testing or remediation of your property delays delivery past your Required Delivery Date, but the moving company's inconvenience claim liability terminates 15 days after payment is received by you for essential items.



## WHO TO CALL FOR HELP

### 1. Local Transportation Office (TO):

<https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/search?program-service=39/view-by=ALL>

### 2. Military Claims Office (MCO):

Air Force:

877-754-1212

937-656-8044

DSN: 968-8307

Navy & Marine Corps:

888-897-8217

757-440-6315

DSN: 564-3310

Army:

usarmy.knox.hqda-otjag.mbx.cpcs@army.mil

Coast Guard:

D05-SMB-HHG@uscg.mil

### 3. Branch of Service Customer Call Centers:

Air Force:

210-652-3357

Navy & Marine Corps:

855-444-6683

Army:

800-521-9959

Coast Guard:

D05-SMB-HHG@uscg.mil