

Structural Drying

- Open enclosed areas (walls, floors)
- Drying may take several days or weeks



Structural Drying

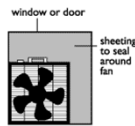
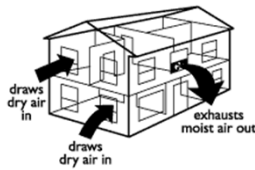
- Long Process



Drying Process



- Circulate air across drying surfaces
- Ventilation – exchange air



Dehumidification

- Dehumidification < 50% RH
 - Open system: ventilation
 - Closed system: mechanical dehumidification
- Minimum RH is about 50% with typical home unit.



Measure Humidity



½ cup water
¼ cup salt
75% RH @ 12 hrs.

Temperature Control

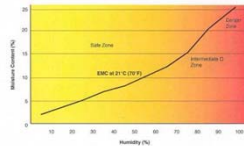
- Ambient temperature < 72 F
 - Balance evaporation, dehumidification, microorganism growth
- Need both ventilation and heat



Acceptable Moisture Level

- Material type affects potential for mold growth
- Wood moisture >15% may lead to mold growth
- Potential for mold growth if relative humidity >70%

Figure 4: Moisture Content vs. Humidity and the Risk of Mold Growth



Do not enclose wet/damp materials

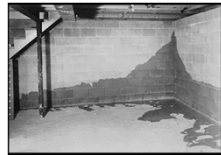


Moisture Meters



Saturated Soils

- Soils contain water for a long time
- Moisture moves through concrete into basement in liquid or vapor form.
- Gallons per day



Test for Water Vapor Movement

- Clear plastic taped to surface
 - Watch for several days
 - Moisture accumulation indicates problem
- Basement wall or floor



<http://www.rd.com/64970/article64970.html>

Mold or Salt



Search for NDSU Flood Information

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/flood>