

# Restoration

D R Y C L E A N I N G N E W S

A quarterly publication containing important insights and useful information for insurance adjusters



**W**elcome to the premier edition of *Restoration Drycleaning News*, a source of news and information for insurance adjusters, produced by the Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network (CRDN).

CRDN is a nationwide organization of drycleaners who specialize in restoration drycleaning services. We are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and offer rush service, which means you can reduce ALE and start saving money right from the beginning of a claim.

With a CRDN member right in your market, you have a local presence that is supported by the resources of a national organization. Additionally, through strategic relationships with ptc-NET and Xactware, we are able to electronically handle assignments and seamlessly manage the drycleaning and laundry portion of your claims.



## Mold remediation study demonstrates effectiveness of drycleaning procedures

### Potential cost savings enormous for insurance companies

A recent study commissioned by the Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network (CRDN) and IAQ Management, an independent, leading expert on indoor air quality testing and consulting based in Livonia, Mich., has determined that it is possible to successfully salvage and restore clothing and other fabric items affected by mold growth contamination.

"Mold contamination has become an increased concern of homeowners and an enormous and potentially costly challenge for the insurance industry," said Wayne Wudyka, CRDN's president and CEO. "As a result, over the past several years our professional drycleaning team has developed cleaning processes and formulas specifically for jobs where mold is present. The purpose of this independent study was to determine the



effectiveness of our program on mold remediation," Wudyka said. "We are very pleased with the results."

While mold spores are commonly found in the environment, mold growth contamination on fabric items can lead to problematic odor, discoloration and even deterioration of fibers.

"For our sampling, we selected garments from structures with notable mold contamination and chose clothing made of cotton, wool and cotton/polyester blend, as these represent a substantial portion of the manufactured clothing industry," said Jon Dattilo, IAQ's

*(Continued ...)*

**Considering that on average, restoration drycleaning costs only 16 percent of replacement (that's a savings of 84%), it is clear that garment restoration can save insurance companies millions of dollars each year.**

president. "A total of 88 samples were collected from six job sites over the course of eight months."

In this study, mold spore contamination was found in 58% of water damaged garments, while mold growth contamination was found in 25%. After the cleaning process, nearly 100% of mold spore contamination was eliminated, and mold growth contamination was reduced by nearly 90%.

"For insurance adjusters, this study demonstrates that clothing does not automatically need to be discarded because it was in a moldy environment," Dattilo said. "In fact, oftentimes clothing in a moldy environment is not contaminated, and if cloth-

ing, and likely other contents, are contaminated by mold, they can be cleaned of mold spore contamination."

"Ultimately, the study indicates that garment quality can be preserved with sufficient response, handling, cleaning and storage techniques, which creates a significant cost savings for insurance companies," added Wudyka. "On average, restoration saves 84 percent over the cost of replacement, and CRDN members consistently are able to save 95 percent of the clothes."



### CHARACTERISTICS OF MOLD

- ◆ Growing conditions for mold are identical to environmental conditions humans find most comfortable.
- ◆ Mold growth begins within 72 hours of a loss.
- ◆ Mold, mildew and bacteria can thrive on virtually any fabric or porous surface.
- ◆ Mold will grow on the fiber, then around the fiber and finally into the fiber as the infestation proliferates.
- ◆ Natural fibers (cotton, wool, silk) are most affected by mold as they are a source of food.
- ◆ Fabric strength is compromised with prolonged exposure to mold.

## THREE CASE STUDIES

The following is a comparison of replacement costs versus cleaning costs of actual restoration jobs for three homeowners.

### Anderson Family

Replacement Cost: \$51,022.49  
Cleaning Cost: \$8,343.35  
Difference: \$42,679.14

**Restoration vs. Replacement: 16.35%**

### Ms. Williams

Replacement Cost: \$24,301.50  
Cleaning Cost: \$4,729.60  
Difference: \$19,571.90

**Restoration vs. Replacement: 19.46%**

### Mr. Perkins

Replacement Cost: \$13,493.00  
Cleaning Cost: \$1,685.00  
Difference: \$11,808.00

**Restoration vs. Replacement: 12.48%**

**Average percentage of restoration cost to replacement value: ..... 16.09%**  
**A savings of 84%**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network provides ongoing, educational seminars about garment restoration to insurance adjusters, content restoration companies and contractors. In fact, CRDN is the only national drycleaning network providing yearly seminars about garment restoration to the Property Loss Research Bureau (PLRB). We would be pleased to provide comprehensive training for you and your staff, at no charge. Our organization will design a customized session for your company or participate in your existing training programs so you will see first-hand the tremendous cost savings of restoration drycleaning and how it works, as well as the specialized services we offer such as mold remediation.

**A national leader in insurance restoration drycleaning services**



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