

Common household building materials:

1. Read the descriptions of building materials below. Which ones will soak up water and give molds a place to grow and feed? Which materials are made of plant and animal materials?
2. Highlight any materials that you think **would NOT get moldy** after a flood.

Household building materials	Used to make:	Made out of:
Wood <i>absorbs water</i>	Floor boards, window frames, cabinets, benches, bed frames, chair frames, studs (the posts used to hold up walls), doors, siding	Wood from trees
Aluminum <i>resists water</i>	Window frames, studs, hinges, roofing, gutters, screen door frames, ceiling covering.	Aluminum is a metal
Steel <i>*may rust in water</i>	Nails, support beams, appliances, electrical boxes and conduits	Steel is made from the metal iron, with some other metals
Vinyl <i>resists water</i>	Flooring, bathtubs, countertops, siding, window frames	Vinyl is a manmade plastic material and does not contain plant matter
Tile <i>absorbs water</i>	Flooring, wall covering in bathrooms and kitchens, patio covering	Tile can be made from stone, clay, glass, sand, or plaster
Paper Fiber <i>absorbs water</i>	Wallpaper, books, drawer liners, pulp can be compressed as a component of drywall, boxes, shelves	Paper fiber is made of paper pulp, which is a finely-ground plant product
Drywall <i>absorbs water</i>	Wall material paneling, ceiling tiles	Drywall is a combination of paper pulp and gypsum, a type of stone
Cotton <i>absorbs water</i>	Insulation, cushioning in furniture, clothing, carpeting, curtains, books, wall covering	Cotton is a fiber collected from the cotton plant
Plastic Foams <i>can absorb or resist water</i>	Insulation, cushioning in furniture, blanket and pillow stuffing, mattress cushion, roofing, carpet padding	There are many types of foam; most are a form of plastic made from entirely man-made materials
Wool <i>absorbs water</i>	Cushion filling in furniture, insulation, carpet padding, clothing	Wool is the fiber collected from the furry coats of sheep and other mammals
Leather <i>absorbs water</i>	Furniture covering, shoes, wall paneling, clothing, tool straps or holsters	Leather is created from the tanned hide of animals, usually cows
Nylon/Polyester <i>absorbs water</i>	Carpeting, furniture covering, cushioning in furniture, curtains, batting (stuffing)	Nylon and polyester are usually made from plastics derived from fossil fuels
Plastic <i>resists water</i>	Dishes, some window frames, storage bins	Most plastics are man-made materials chemically made from oil and other fossil fuels
Glass <i>resists water</i>	Windows, dishes, light fixtures, mirrors, clocks, some appliances, cabinets	Glass is made from many inorganic minerals (like silica), melted at high temperatures and cooled slowly