M.S. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST · LAUNDRY ROOM CHECKLIST

8 STEPS TO REMOVE STUBBORN MOLD FROM YOUR WASHING MACHINE

Front-loaders especially are notorious for trapping moisture behind that rubber door seal, which is exactly the dark, damp environment mold needs. A musty smell is a sign the machine needs attention, not just a stronger-scented detergent. Here's how to actually clear it out:



PART 1 · DEEP CLEAN



01 ☐ **EMPTY THE WASHER COMPLETELY.**

02 ☐ **RUN A HOT CYCLE WITH WHITE VINEGAR.**
Pour 2 cups of white vinegar directly into the drum, then run the hottest, longest cycle your washer allows.

03 ☐ **RUN A SECOND HOT CYCLE WITH BAKING SODA.**
Once the vinegar cycle finishes, sprinkle 1/2 to 1 cup of baking soda into the drum and run another hot cycle.

PART 2 · HOT SPOTS



04 ☐ **CLEAN THE GASKET AND DOOR AREA.**
Use a cloth or old toothbrush with 3% hydrogen peroxide or a 50/50 vinegar-and-water mix to scrub the rubber seal and door lip, paying close attention to dark spots or slimy buildup.

05 ☐ **CLEAN THE DETERGENT DRAWER.**
Remove it if possible, rinse well, then scrub with the same hydrogen peroxide or vinegar solution. Dry before replacing.

06 ☐ **FOR STUBBORN MOLD:**
Add 5-10 drops of tea tree oil to your cleaning cloth or a small bowl of vinegar and water, then wipe problem areas again. Skip this step if you have cats that may come into contact with the wet residue.

PART 3 · KEEP IT DRY



07 ☐ **DRY IT OUT AFTER EVERY LOAD.**
Leave the washer door open and the detergent tray cracked so moisture can evaporate.

08 ☐ **PUT IT ON A SCHEDULE.**
Repeat the full clean every 4-8 weeks, sooner if the musty smell comes back.

09 ☐ **RUN A DEHUMIDIFIER IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM.**
Laundry rooms tend to run humid between loads, drying racks, and the washer itself, which makes them a prime spot for mold and mildew to creep in beyond just the machine. A small dehumidifier keeps the whole room dry, not just the washer drum.

This guide is intended for informational purposes only and does not replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment and before undertaking a new health care regimen. Some links may be affiliate links. © 2026 · NonToxicDad.com

Warren Phillips, M.S.