

Crawl space check, twice a year

Once before or at the start of the hot, humid season, and once after summer.

Below the Sill

DON'T GO IN. CALL A PROFESSIONAL IF THERE'S

- ✗ Standing water where it could reach wiring or electrical equipment
- ✗ Recent flooding, before the structure and the electrical system have been checked
- ✗ Sewage, or water you can't identify
- ✗ Obvious structural damage, leaning or displaced supports, or any area that looks unstable
- ✗ An access opening that's too tight or unsafe, or anything that keeps you from moving around safely
- ✗ Large areas of mold, unfamiliar chemical smells or materials that might contain asbestos

If you smell gas, leave right away. If anyone who would go in has asthma, is allergic to mold or has a weakened immune system, have someone else do the check.

WHAT TO BRING

- ☐ A good flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Gloves and clothes you don't mind ruining
- ☐ A digital hygrometer
- ☐ Your phone, for photos to compare next time
- ☐ A wood moisture meter, if you know how to use one
- ☐ An N95 if there's dust or possible mold (check with your doctor first)

INSIDE

- ☐ Ground cover in place, no torn or exposed areas
- ☐ Standing water or damp patches
- ☐ New marks on walls and piers
- ☐ A smell that's different from last time
- ☐ Condensation on ducts or pipes
- ☐ Fallen or wet insulation
- ☐ Wood that looks or feels different
- ☐ Plumbing leaks
- ☐ Signs of insects or termites

OUTSIDE

- ☐ Gutters clear and not overflowing
- ☐ Downspouts discharging away from the foundation
- ☐ Ground sloping away from the house

READING THE HYGROMETER

Under 60%: normally fine

60–65%: keep an eye on it

Over 65% for long periods: a problem worth tracing

Robert Stulpt's working ranges for crawl spaces in Virginia.

LOG

Date	Humidity	What changed since last time

By Robert Stulpt · belowthesill.com/crawl-spaces/ · Sources: Virginia Department of Health, Mold (gloves, goggles and an N95 for mold cleanup); CDC, Safety guidelines: reentering your flooded home. Have an electrician check the system before the power goes back on after a flood.