



Get to know the facts about MOLD



Mold is found everywhere - both indoors and outdoors

Mold is all around us. In nature it plays an important role in breaking down and getting rid of decaying materials. Mold requires water, oxygen, and a food source in order to grow. It can grow on virtually any surface in the indoor environment if water is available.

Common Types of Mold

Cladosporium

Common outdoors but easily travels indoors. May cause hay fever or asthma symptoms.

Penicillium

Found commonly on wallpaper, fabric, and in carpets with water damage. Known to cause allergies.

Aspergillus

Can be found in areas with extreme dampness and has a yellow-green color.

Alternaria

Grows in damp areas such as under sinks, in showers, or after flooding. Has a black color and fuzzy texture.

Stachybotrys

Also known as black mold. Has a distinct musty odor. Can appear wet or dry and powdery with greenish-black colors.

All molds are allergens.

Some people may be highly sensitive to mold while others show little or no reaction.

Health risks from mold are especially harmful for children, elderly people, and those with pre-existing respiratory illnesses such as asthma.

Health Effects of Mold



Eyes that are red and itching



Coughing



Chronic Headaches



Wheezing, Shortness of Breath



Nasal Congestion



Sore throat



Runny Nose



Skin Rash and Redness



Nausea and Diarrhea

Cleaning Mold

You can use dish detergent or 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water to clean mold. **Never** mix bleach with ammonia, vinegar, or other household cleaners. In order to clean up mold and not have it return, you must eliminate its source of water. If water or moisture remains in the area, mold will grow back after it is cleaned.

How to Clean Mold



Remove moisture immediately with fans or vacuums.



Wear gloves and goggles to prevent cleaning chemicals and mold from harming your skin and eyes.



Wear an N-95 respirator to avoid breathing in mold or mold spores.



Fix water problems and leaks



Install or properly use bathroom fans and exhaust fans to reduce moisture in the bathroom and kitchen.



Clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent. Dry completely.



If not dried immediately, absorbent materials such as paper, ceiling tiles, and drywall should be replaced.



Add insulation around cold surfaces such as windows, pipes, exterior walls, and floors.



Reduce indoor humidity to 30-60% with a dehumidifier



Follow laundering and cleaning instructions on fabrics. Or replace fabric that cannot be properly cleaned and dried.

Mold Testing

The CDC and EPA do not recommend having your home tested for mold. There are no set standards for what is acceptable and what is not acceptable for the amount of mold in a home. The health effects of mold are different for every person. No matter what type or amount of mold is present you need to have it removed.



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