

Can mold be removed?

The first step in remediating mold is to correct the damp environment. Ventilate the room and remove all standing water from surfaces. There are many products available at hardware stores to absorb moisture from the air. Small, hanging pouches are ideal for minor issues, while larger dehumidifiers can be rented for more severe cases.

Once the moisture has been removed, you can begin the cleanup. Stay away from bleach based products. Aside from the harmful fumes and environmental hazard bleach creates, professionals warn that the combination can actually compound the release of harmful components. Also, many feel it is ineffective as it does not kill mold at its root.

Look for environmentally friendly, non-bleach mold cleaners for your clean up and always wear protective gear. The EPA has a helpful cleanup guide available online. Larger problems should be left to a professional mold remediation company. This can be pricey, but some insurance policies still cover this expense.

How can I prevent mold from growing in my home?

Mold will always be able to enter a home, but by creating and maintaining a non-

conductive environment, you can prevent growth and reproduction.

Keep rooms well ventilated, clean up water spills and leaks immediately, repair leaky pipes and roofing, and scrub mold from surfaces as soon as they appear.

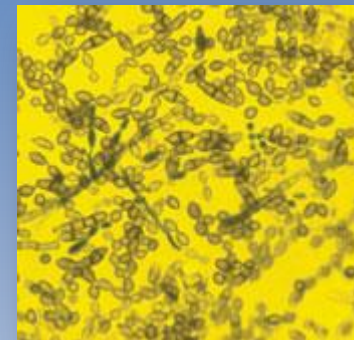


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MOLD



A Guide for Homeowners, Buyers, and Sellers

What Every Homeowner Should Know About Mold

Mold is a necessary part of nature. But within the confines of a home or building, it can grow rapidly and present a variety of dangerous health risks.

What is mold?

Mold is a variation of highly adaptable fungi that reproduces quickly and spreads through spores. Not all molds are sinister. We consume similar fungi in the form of mushrooms and yeast, and are regularly exposed to forms of mold in nature. Mold plays an important role in the ecosystem by decomposing dead plant matter. However, within the confines of a home or building, it can present a variety of dangers.

How does mold grow?

A damp environment is necessary for mold to survive and grow. Modern housing is constructed to reduce the flow of air to and

from outside. This lack of air circulation can harbor moisture, creating the perfect spawning ground for mold.

Mold grows and reproduces rapidly. If unnoticed or untreated, it can quickly turn into a serious problem.

Where is mold a concern?

Wet rooms and areas surrounding plumbing are common, high risk areas for mold development and growth. Under sinks, behind washers, and behind refrigerators and freezers are also areas for concern as these are places most homeowners never see. Any area that has been affected by a flood or roof leak is also susceptible.

Is mold dangerous?

In addition to being aesthetically unpleasant, mold also carries a variety of health risks.

The American Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has linked the presence of mold to a variety of allergic reactions including labored breathing, hay fever symptoms, and skin rashes. Individuals that are asthmatic or have other



respiratory sensitivities as well as pregnant women, the elderly and children are all at a higher risk from mold related illnesses.

What are the signs of a mold problem?

The most obvious sign of a mold problem is a stale, musty odor. Anyone who has smelled a molded loaf of bread is familiar with the unique scent spores emit. Visible signs of mold would be patches of unexplained discoloration on surfaces exposed to moisture.

