

Preventing Mold in Your Home

Locate Moisture Problems

Since mold only grows where there is water or dampness, the first step in eliminating mold is locating any moisture problems.

- Look for leaking sinks, pipes, roofs or fire sprinklers.
- Evaluate your landscape and rain gutters and make sure water drainage is running away from your home.
- High humidity can also cause condensation and moisture build-up. Make sure your home has proper ventilation and that the stove and dryer vent systems are clear.
- It is also recommended that you have your heating and air-conditioning unit serviced annually to prevent any leaks and ensure mold is not building up on insulation or ducts.
- Trust your nose. Mold has a distinctive smell and is usually the first sign of moisture and eventually mold.



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Acting Quickly and Clean-up!

Along with eliminating the moisture problem, the next step is quickly cleaning the damp area. Remember, eliminating mold and its spores are impossible; preventing them from having a surface to grow on is the next best thing. It is recommended to begin drying any wet area within 48 hours and increase ventilation.

It is important to limit your exposure to mold and its spores. Wearing proper protection like face-mask, gloves and goggles. If mold has been unattended and is given the opportunity to grow, the clean-up job may be too big.

Consider consulting a professional contractor who is properly trained to handle and remove large scale mold problems.



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INDOOR MOLD



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The Basics About Mold

What is Mold?

Molds that are found in your home are a type of fungus. Mold and fungus are a natural part of our environment.

Mold is needed to breakdown dead organic materials.



Mold produces microscopic spores that float through the air and can be found everywhere, indoors and outdoors.



However, mold only grows where moisture is present.



Where does Mold Grow?

Mold can grow on virtually any organic material when moisture and oxygen are present.

Mold can be found on these most common building materials :

- Wood
- Drywall
- Wallpaper
- Carpet/pads
- Insulation
- Ceiling tiles
- Paneling
- Air conditioning ducts



Unattended mold will destroy whatever it grows on, including building structures.



Mold Exposure Health Concerns

Normally, molds are not a concern to someone who is healthy. However some individuals, especially those who have existing health concerns, may be sensitive to mold exposure and may cause the following symptoms:

- Allergic reactions
 - Headache
 - Sneezing
 - Running nose
 - Irritated eyes
 - Skin rash
- Flu-like symptoms
 - Fatigue
 - Nose bleed
 - Dizziness
 - Headaches
 - Vomiting
 - Respiratory dysfunction
- Asthma attacks
 - Breathing difficulties
- Infections in persons with weak immune system

