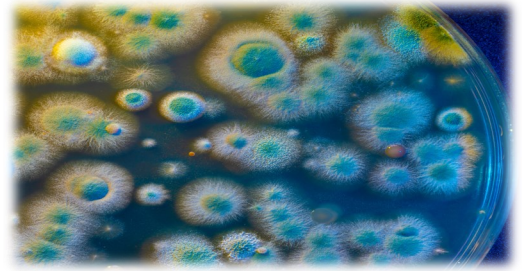


# Fast Facts:

## Mold & Mildew



Molds exist within our natural environments, like many other allergens. They are commonly brought into indoor spaces through windows and doors, ventilation systems, clothing, or tracked in with shoes. Molds come in various colors, including white, grey, and pink, often found on shower walls and liners not cleaned routinely, and black, as seen around vents or windowsills, because of condensation. Mold spores can grow anywhere when a moist environment is provided. Maintaining proper housekeeping practices, controlling moisture, and providing adequate air circulation to inhibit mold growth are essential.

Many people are fearful that any mold they see will result in a life-threatening illness. Although most people have little to no reaction to household molds, some people who suffer from allergies may be more sensitive.

### Preventing Mold & Mildew

The following guidance is preventive measures to reduce the likelihood of mold growth within your living space or workspace.

- **Visually inspect areas for water sources**

Mold requires moisture, oxygen, and a food source. Common water sources are showers, leaky pipes, leaky gutters, poor ventilation, or dripping sinks.

- **Fix any moisture leaks**

If you have a leak or a known source of excessive moisture, inform the appropriate department to investigate and perform any necessary repairs.

- **Eliminate any visible mold**

Wear gloves and a mask, apply household cleaner/disinfectants to the surface, and gently scrub away with a cloth. Let the area dry completely and follow the cleaning product manufacturer's instructions.

- **Ventilate the area**

Ventilate the area using household fans to circulate air throughout the space to ensure moisture in the room is reduced.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our office.

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Ver. 1.1

<https://www.epa.gov/mold>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/indoorenv/mold.html>

### Did you know?

Currently there are **no EPA regulations or standards for airborne mold** contaminants.

The best way to control mold growth is to **control moisture**.

Surface sampling or testing is **best used to determine if an area has been adequately cleaned or remediated**.

It is **important to dry** water-damaged areas and items promptly to prevent mold growth. **Identify the water source and fix the water problem**.

**In most cases, individuals can resolve small amounts of the visible mold with basic cleaning household cleaners.**



Office of Environmental Health & Safety

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