

What You Can Do About Mold



Health Concerns Related to Mold:

Exposure to mold and its byproducts in the home can cause some health concerns and aggravate others. Mold is especially a factor in those who have allergies, asthma, or other respiratory issues. Also, some molds will produce different toxins that can cause irritation.

What Causes Mold Growth in the Home?

Molds are part of the natural environment. Outdoors, molds break down dead organic matter such as fallen leaves and dead trees, but indoors, mold growth should be avoided. Molds reproduce by means of tiny spores invisible to the naked eye that float through outdoor and indoor air. Mold may begin growing indoors when mold spores land on surfaces that are wet. There are many types of mold, and none of them will grow without water or moisture.



What Can Be Done to Fix a Mold Problem?

In order to fix a mold growth problem in your home, you must address the issues that are causing the problem. Simply cleaning up the mold that is visible in the home will do **nothing** to prevent the mold from continuing to grow in your home. Mold growth should be looked at as a symptom of a larger problem with your home. Large mold problems are generally associated with moisture accumulating in the interior walls of your home. This means that the most important part of the mold remediation process is fixing the problem that is allowing the moisture to accumulate. If you cannot determine where the moisture is coming from, consult a professional mold contractor

or home performance consultant. For a list of home performance consultants call 800-762-7077 or visit Wisconsin's Focus on Energy website at - <http://www.focusonenergy.com>.

How to Clean Up the Mold in Your Home:

For a small area, such as in a bathroom or a window sill, you can generally clean up the mold using a towel moistened with a general cleaning agent. However, just because the clean-up is easy to do, it doesn't make addressing the moisture problem causing the mold growth any less important.

For a larger area (about 10 square feet and larger), you will need to use a much more in-depth procedure that can be obtained by contacting your local health department.

Points to Remember:

- Mold cannot grow without moisture
 - (Make sure any water in your home is dried within 24-48 hours)
- Mold is a **symptom** of a larger problem

- If you can't determine the source of the moisture causing the mold problem, contact a professional consultant



For More Information:

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[http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/eh/HlthHaz/fs/
moldindx.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/eh/HlthHaz/fs/moldindx.htm)

Centers For Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/airpollution/mold>