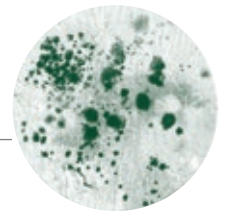


INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: MOLD



Mold and mildew are fungi found indoors and outdoors. Mold grows in moist and wet places. You need to fix the source of the moisture to get rid of mold.

Why is mold a problem?

Mold can trigger asthma, allergic reactions, and other respiratory problems for children and child care providers. These health problems can occur right away or after they are exposed to mold.

Characteristics of mold

Mold spores travel through the air and settle in moist places where they reproduce and grow. Mold can grow where there are leaks or where water collects, for example, on walls, between walls (next to the insulation) and ceilings, or around windows. Mold is common in bathrooms, around washing machines, and under sinks. Mold has a musty smell and can be white, black, or pink in color.

IPM Strategies

1 KEEP MOLD AWAY BY REMOVING MOISTURE

- ▶ Inspect regularly for water droplets collecting on walls or windows.
- ▶ Open windows to increase air circulation.
- ▶ Use exhaust fans in bathrooms and when cooking, dishwashing, and cleaning.
- ▶ Be sure that stoves and dryers vent to the outside.
- ▶ Clean regularly. Remember to clean roof gutters and air conditioning drip pans.
- ▶ Take action right away (within 24-48 hours) when you see damp or wet areas.
- ▶ Fix leaks immediately.
- ▶ Keep furniture a few inches away from exterior walls.
- ▶ Keep rugs and carpets away from moisture-prone areas.

2 MONITOR FOR MOLD

Check the following places for mold:

- ▶ Ceilings and walls, especially exterior walls.
- ▶ Walls behind furniture.
- ▶ Under carpets and pads.

- ▶ Under sinks and around pipes.
- ▶ Heating ducts.

3 MANAGE MOLD

- ▶ You can take care of small problems yourself (for example, a 3 x 3 foot patch). If a problem is too big for you to clean up, it may be best to hire a professional.
- ▶ Don't use heating, ventilation, or air conditioning systems if there is visible mold growth in the system. Follow the EPA's guide: *Should You Have the Air Ducts in Your Home Cleaned?* (www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/airduct.html).

4 BEFORE CLEANING MOLD

- ▶ Wear a mask, such as the N-95 respirator (available at hardware stores).
- ▶ Wear gloves that cover your wrists and lower arms.
- ▶ Wear long sleeves and pants.
- ▶ If you're cleaning a ceiling, wear goggles to protect your eyes.

5 HOW TO CLEAN MOLD

- ▶ Scrub the mold off any surface with soap and water (or carefully use a disinfectant according to label directions).
- ▶ Completely dry the area.
- ▶ If mold is present in absorbent materials, like ceilings tiles and carpets, replace them.
- ▶ If mold has grown on an expensive or sentimental item, consult a specialist in furniture repair, art restoration, carpet cleaning, or water restoration.
- ▶ Make sure you fix whatever caused the moisture in the first place (for example, leaking pipes or indoor humidity). By eliminating the source of moisture, you will prevent future mold problems.

RESOURCES

• Environmental Protection Agency,
Mold Resources
www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html

• Center for Disease Control, *Mold Resources*
www.cdc.gov/mold