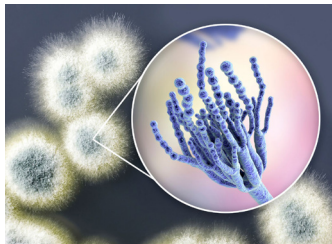


FACT SHEET: Mold Prevention

Awareness and Protection



Molds and fungi are found almost everywhere in nature and benefit the environment by breaking down leaves, wood and other organic materials. There are many species of mold and they can be almost any color. Molds/spores enter building via the air, or can be transported on clothing, shoes, packages, equipment, etc. Mold grow best in warm/damp conditions.

✓ NEED TO KNOW:

1. Call **646-888-2280**. Contact OEHS and Facilities ASAP to report water damage incidents for quick response.
2. **Be aware and act promptly.** Look out for condensation and wet spots. Clean and dry effected areas ASAP but no more than 48 hours after discovery.
3. **Ventilate.** Prevent high relative humidity, high temperature and poor ventilation.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF MOLD EXPOSURE?

Most people exposed to low levels of mold have no adverse health effects. However, molds can cause mild to severe health problems in sensitive populations, including infants and children, elderly, pregnant women, individuals with asthma/other respiratory conditions and immunocompromised individuals. The most common health effects from mold exposure are allergic reactions. Symptoms include: sneezing, runny nose, eye irritation, cough, congestion, aggravation of asthma, and dermatitis (Skin rash). Currently, there is no established level in the air that is known to cause adverse health effects.

HOW DOES MOLD GET INTO BUILDINGS?

Mold/fungal spores can be found almost everywhere. Indoors, mold needs moisture to grow; it becomes a problem only where there is water damage, elevated and prolonged humidity, or dampness. Sources of excessive indoor moisture include:

- Leaks from damaged/missing roofing materials;
- Storm-driven rain through window frames, exterior walls or door assemblies;
- Leaking pipes, sewer back-ups or overflows;
- Damp basements/crawl spaces due to poorly managed rainwater drainage;
- Condensation on cold surfaces.



! HOW TO PREVENT MOLD GROWTH:



Control excess moisture and condensation!

- Keep susceptible areas clean and dry. Mold will not grow indoors without water/dampness.
- Control humidity with air conditioners and/or dehumidifiers. (Ideal range: 30-50%; never exceed 60%)
- Insulate cold surfaces to prevent condensation on piping, windows, exterior walls, roofs and floors.
- Keep air conditioner drip pans and drain lines clean.
- Ensure cold storage door latches and gaskets are in good condition.
- Clean up floods or spills ASAP (within 24 hours). Remove or replace soaked carpets and upholstery that cannot be immediately dried.
- For flooring and carpets, remove spots or stains immediately. Reduce the amount of water used when cleaning carpets as much as possible.

📱 MORE INFO:



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Louisiana Department of Health: [Mold](#)
- AIHA: [Mold Resource Center](#)
- CDC: [Dampness and Mold in Buildings](#)
- CDC: [You Can Control Mold](#)