

MOLD

Facts, Myths and Helpful Tips!

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TRI STATE RESTORATIONS

TURNING DISASTER INTO PEACE OF MIND®

WATER • MOLD • FIRE • SEWAGE • EMERGENCY

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All About Mold

Simply put, mold is a type of fungi like mushrooms and yeast that is found pretty much everywhere. It's color can range from white, yellows and oranges all the way to dark greens, purples and even black.

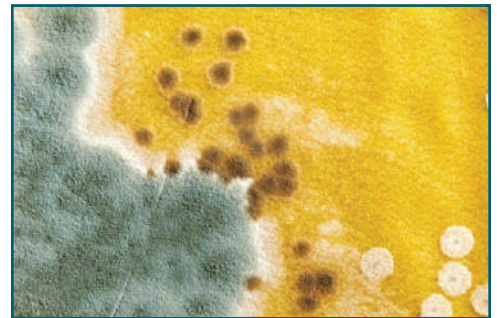
Mold grows best in damp, darker areas. Outside, it's actually very helpful in breaking down dead organic matter such as leaves and trees. Indoors, mold is usually found in attics, basements, bathrooms, crawl spaces, and even under wallpaper and tile. Due to the moisture around them, mold can also be found due to leaky roofs, leaky windows, leaky pipes, or seasonal flooding.

True Fact - you're exposed to mold in some amount every single day! Molds reproduce by casting microscopic spores into the air that are carried over distance on air currents. In small amounts these airborne spores are typically harmless and you'll probably never notice them (*thank you nose hairs!*)

If you're sensitive to mold or inhale a large number of these airborne spores, then you could experience health problems. And of course, some molds are more toxigenic than others.



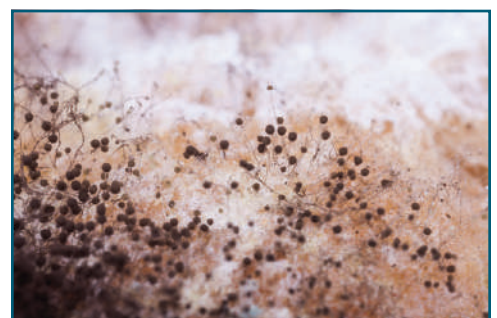
Mold growing on a leaky window sill.



Molds come in a rainbow of colors.



Mold is a nasty surprise under the surface.



Toxigenic spores produced by Black Mold.

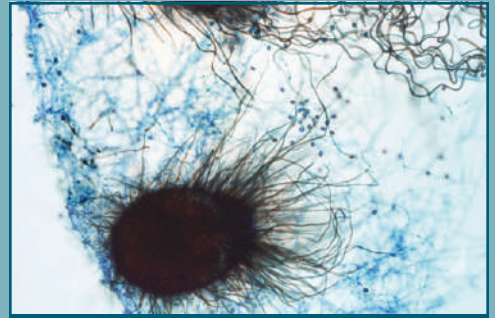
Dangers of Mold

Mold spreads by airborne spores which can be inhaled by anyone in the area - even pets! Some varieties of mold produce toxins that can cause a variety of health problems if inhaled.

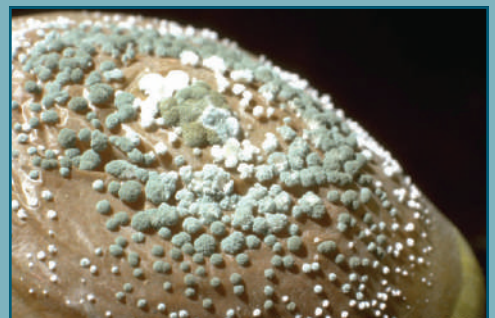
These dangerous toxins can cause a host of symptomatic affects ranging from a simple runny nose to serious illness and health complications:

- Runny Nose
- Headaches
- Sore throats
- Shortness of breath
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Irritated eyes
- Asthma attacks
- Asthma-like symptoms
- Lung infections
- Sinus infections
- Rashes or hives
- Fatigue
- Depression
- Depressed immune system
- Aspergillosis
- Blastomycosis
- Histoplasmosis
- Coccidioidomycosis
- Yeast infection
- And more!

Some Types of Household Mold



CHAETOMIUM



PENICILLIUM



ASPERGILLUS



STACHYBOTRYS

Black Mold

Mold (fungi) is present everywhere. There are over 100,000 mold species with at least 1,000 common to the United States. Black Mold (*Stachybotrys*) is most likely to grow where there is water or dampness - such as in bathrooms and basements - and has been associated with health effects in people.

Many molds appear black but are not *Stachybotrys*. For example, the black mold commonly found between bathroom tiles is usually not toxic. *Stachybotrys* can be positively identified by trained professionals through a microscopic exam.



As the indoor air level of *Stachybotrys* increases, the higher the chance of health affects such as:

- Allergic Rhinitis (Cold-Like Symptoms)
- Dermatitis (Rashes)
- Sinusitis
- Conjunctivitis
- Aggravation of Asthma

Some related symptoms are more general - such as an inability to concentrate and fatigue. In cases of prolonged or severe exposure, or cases exacerbated by an allergic reaction, more extreme symptoms can appear including nausea, vomiting, and bleeding in the lungs and nose.

Facts & Fiction

Once you've killed mold, removal is optional.



FALSE

Mold allergens can become airborne even when mold is dead. Mold remediation experts like Tri State Restorations specialize in mold removal.

You can kill mold using household bleach.



TRUEish

It's unclear if bleach kills all kinds of mold on all surfaces. While better on nonporous surfaces, its effectiveness on porous surfaces like wood is questionable.

A little bit of mold doesn't indicate a problem.



FALSE

A tiny dot of mold could indicate additional mold under tiles, behind walls, or worse. Use a certified mold inspector to determine the extent of your mold issue.

If you're healthy, mold is not affecting your home.



FALSE

Even if you're resistant to mold, your house is NOT! Between rotting wood and materials discoloring, it is crucial to remove mold to protect your home's value.

All black mold is toxic and very dangerous.



FALSE

There are 20,000+ mold species that are black in color. Only trained professionals with the right testing materials can determine the type of mold and any health risk.

Black mold is capable of being deadly.



TRUE

If exposed for long enough, black mold spores can affect your organs, diminish your immune system's effectiveness, and damage the brain - resulting in death.

Prevention

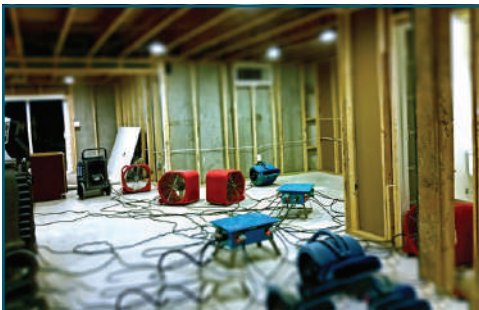
Mold follows one rule... where there is moisture, there is mold. There is always some level of moisture in the air so there will always be some level of mold. Prevention is simple - control moisture. Keep humidity levels under 60%, repair leaks immediately as they appear, and dry any water spills as soon as possible.

If you're looking to take the next step and advance to more involved methods of mold prevention, or need to take extra prevention steps specific to stopping mold growth on walls, in bathrooms, in basements and more - please visit the informative Tri State Restorations blog at: tristaterestores.com/blog/categories/mold



Simple home moisture meters can range from \$25 - \$50.

Removal & Restoration



Mold damage remediation requires expertise, experience, and the right equipment. It is important to determine what property can be saved, what must be repaired, and what must be replaced.

Tri State Restorations is determined to restore damaged houses to the loving homes they were, and getting companies up and operational as quickly as possible. Our expert technicians personalize remediation plans to guarantee your mold problem will be dealt with safely, effectively, efficiently, and fast!