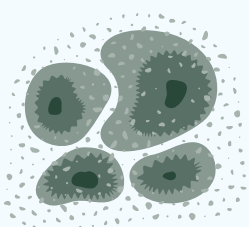


MOULD AWARENESS AND CONTROL

Mould is a common word for fungus that grows on food, plants, damp building materials and moist surfaces (including walls, cardboard boxes, fabric, wood, etc.)



COMMON GROWTH AREAS

- Mould thrives in a damp environment, so typical areas of growth are in the shower, beneath sinks, and in the basement.
- If your home suffers from leaks during storms, monitoring these frequently wet areas will also be instrumental in keeping your home safe.



PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

- Be aware of any physical symptoms you or your family are feeling in the home.
- Mould can worsen the effects of asthma and allergies for people who already deal with them.
- If you notice the smell of mildew, have breathing trouble and irritation worsen in the home, it's a potential sign that mould is present.
- If symptoms are noticed, try to seek out the source of the mould for visual confirmation or bring in a specialist to perform testing.



PREVENTION TIPS

- Keeping key areas dry and disinfected the best way to stop mould before it gets out of hand and requires a more heavy-duty removal service.
- Should you see a leak in your home, it is essential to address it as soon as possible.
- Clogged gutters promote mould growth in the home. If the gutter or downspout are blocked up with debris, water from rain won't be directed away from your home. Keeping a clean gutter will ultimately be easier than attempting to repair and maintain a drenched foundation.



PREVENTION TIPS

- Check dryer vents often. If the moisture removed from the drying process can't get outside or is escaping into your laundry area, it is creating a warm, damp area perfect for mould growth.
- Monitor your home's humidity levels. Humidity monitors are an inexpensive tool to pair with dehumidifiers or fresh air to more effectively control emerging mould.
- Ensure your home is well ventilated especially in areas prone to moisture. Use exhaust fans and opens windows when possible.



PREVENTION TIPS

- Indoor plants help to prevent mould with research pointing to plants as a way to remove mould spores from the air. However, overly watered plants or potted plants with poor drainage will support mould growth. Consider bringing air plants into the home for a low-water oxygen producer that boosts your air quality.
- Prepare before a heavy rainstorm as they are one of the biggest contributors to mould growth at home; the downpour can find its way into every nook and cranny, but the dampness it leaves behind for days to come creates the perfect environment for mould to thrive.



CLEANING

- When cleaning areas in your home most prone to mould, focus on prevention by using antimicrobial or disinfectant products.
- You can use a bleach product for tackling mould on non-porous surfaces, but other cleaners are also available for daily use that are less harsh on you and your family.
- Giving target areas daily or weekly attention with a focus on keeping them not only clean but also very dry will effectively prevent mould growth.