

## Mold Facts / Controlling Mold

### Information about mold

### Mold in the home

### How to control mold

### Mold Products

#### What is Mold?

Molds are microscopic organisms found virtually everywhere, both indoors and outdoors. □ Mold is alive, but it is neither a plant nor an animal. Mold is a type of fungus. It is part of a group of living organisms that are very common and serve an important role in the environment.

Penicillin, an antibiotic that has saved many lives, is a type of mold, as is yeast. □ Mold is formed by microscopic creatures belonging to the Fungi Kingdom. When tiny airborne spores of mold burst, and then land on a favorable surface, they proliferate into visible colonies, and find new favorable surfaces on which to further develop (Moist surfaces).

**Fungal growth requires oxygen, adequate temperature, nutrients and water (moisture).**

**Temperature tolerance:** □ Thermophiles - 35°C + human pathogens such as *Aspergillus*, *Fumigatus*, □ Mesophiles – 18°C to 35°C □ Psychrophiles – some fungi grow at 4°C or below.

#### **Nutrients (food for mold growth)**

Paper, wallpaper, wallboard, sugars (fruits, vegetables), fabrics, wood, dust, dead skin cells, etc

### How does mold grow?

Mold seeks MOISTURE, WARMTH, and FOOD, and all three conditions are necessary for it to grow. Mold is most likely to find a place to grow in a bathroom, basement or kitchen, but it can grow in other rooms, and in air conditioning ducts if conditions are favorable. The climate where you live and the living habits in your household can affect the ability of mold to grow.

Mold spores can thrive and reproduce in wet or damp parts of your home: areas that have had flooding; where leakage has occurred in roofs, pipes, or walls; areas around house plants, especially ones that sometimes are over-watered; or areas of high condensation, metal pipes, around windows/ doors and air conditioning ducts. In just 48 hours, a moist environment combined with room-temperature conditions and an organic food source can lead to mold growth.

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## Some places where mold can grow in your home

Cellular &/or fibrous material such as: carpet, □drapes, □upholstery, □leather, □wood products, □clothing, paper, □cardboard, □books, □rags, □wallboard, □cloth, bread, grains, etc.

After it gets the food it needs, mold can move to virtually any kind of surface. Mold growth prefers temperatures between 40 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit. If a warm enough area in your home is humid or damp and contains items that mold likes to eat, your home could develop a mold problem. This is why Florida has one of the highest mold rates in the United States.

## How does mold enter a home?

Mold spreads by creating reproductive cells called spores and sending them into the environment. Mold spores are too small to detect with the naked eye. They are everywhere around us and you cannot avoid being exposed to them.

Mold spores travel in the air and attach to people's skin, clothing, shoes, shopping bags and belongings.

Other ways spores can enter your home invisibly are:

- Through open doors and windows

- Through your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system

- On the fur of a pet

- On your hands, shoes and clothes

- Luggage, Packages, Food bags from the grocer

Once spores enter, they can settle onto:

- Carpeting, furniture, beds or every surface inside your home

**You cannot keep spores out of your home, but regular home cleaning and maintenance can prevent mold problems before they arise.**

**This is why O<sup>3</sup> Wizard has developed an**

**Economical / Efficient / Effective / Eco-friendly**

**Guaranteed - Money Back**

**Mold Prevention Policy**

(Periodic Sanitization Treatments)

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### How do I know if my environment has mold problems?

- If you see whitish, greenish, bluish, or even dark spots on the walls or ceiling the place may have mold problems.
- Rooms that accumulate humidity such as bathrooms, kitchens or air conditioning systems usually have problems with mold because fungi develop in high humidity environments.
- Rooms with water leakage or infiltrations may have mold infection.
- If the mold infection is in closets, check for leakages from water pipes nearby.
- High risk buildings: □- Near forests, due to high concentration of mold colonies □- Nearby the sea or a river as the high humidity level raises the development of new colonies. □- Buildings with poor sun exposure, **as the sun is a natural germicide (UV Light)** and helps prevent humidity.

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### Mold Prevention Policy™

Uses a Patent Pending Technology, which has the same properties as the sun

### Ultra Violet Light (UV)

## Can mold make me sick?

Yes, Mold can make you sick. In addition to its being an unpleasant odor and sight, mold can cause harmful effects to human health that might turn to allergic infections and toxic reactions.

### The most common Allergic Effects are

- Nasal congestions and irritation;
- Mucous membrane irritation;
- Allergic reactions – Rhinitis and Asthma;
- Sneezing and coughing;

### Infectious Effects

Immune suppressed patients are more likely to develop mold infections. Included in such groups we can highlight the danger to patients such are: □- HIV positive □- Organ transplanted □- Burned □- Under chemotherapy or radiotherapy; □- Newborns □- Elderly □- Other immune-suppressed patients

### Toxic Effects

Mold toxins studies suggest that toxins may be the cause of: □- Pulmonary hemorrhage; □- Reactions in the immunological system (reducing the ability of the organism to react to diseases); □- Neurotoxin effects such as fatigue, headaches, memory loss, depression, erratic moods, convulsions and shaking; □- Potential cancer trigger.

### Prevention

- Reduce humidity in your home by opening windows for approximately 30 minutes daily; □
- Prevent leaks due to rain; and when unavoidable, dry and treat water damage within 24 to 48hours; □
- Regularly clean places that accumulate humidity such as showers, faucets and pipes and the floor areas around such fixtures; □
- Limit carpets and plants in your home; □
- Use air purifier to drastically reduce high contamination levels. □
- Whenever possible, leave objects exposed to sunlight after cleaning. It is very important that objects are dried after cleaning otherwise they will be subject to new mold contamination. □
- Porous materials such as wood, fabric, cushions, and mattresses retain water and are likely to be contaminated, making it difficult to clean them. In the event that these objects are contaminated, it is advised to dispose them.

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### **How to control mold?**

It is impossible to completely eliminate airborne mold. Specialists warn that living in environments entirely safe from mold spores, bacteria or viruses would not be healthy since our immunological system needs to be active. It is recommended that steps be taken to reduce airborne microorganisms, not complete extermination.

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### **Mold Prevention Policy™**

**Control the Mold  
(Periodic Sanitization)**

**This Periodically performed service  
Reduces and maintains mold at safe levels  
While keeping the air clean and fresh smelling**

For more information:

See our website [www.o3wizard](http://www.o3wizard)

**or**

Call – Kim Stevens, President

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