



MOLDS

What is Mold? Mold, also known as fungus, is a family of organisms that are found throughout nature. Unlike plants, molds need food and water in order to thrive. If there is a moist environment and other proper conditions, molds can attack materials in a house or building such as fiberboard, drywall, carpet backing, paper, dust, wood, or exposed soils in crawlspaces. Once established in a building, molds/fungi can spread, destroying structural wood components, and can be hard to get rid of.

Alternaria Extremely widespread and ubiquitous. Outdoors it may be found on soil, seeds, and plants. Indoors it may be found on carpets, textiles, and on horizontal surfaces in building interiors. It is also often found on window frames.

Aspergillus Very common indoor mold that can be found on basement ceilings, at air conditioning coils, leaky areas, on the lower parts of foundation walls, on and under basement steps, on crawlspace ceiling joists and subflooring, in flooded areas where humidity has been elevated for an extended time, etc.

Fusarium A common soil fungus. It is found on a wide range of plants. It is often found in humidifiers. Frequently involved in eye, skin and nail infections.

Cladosporium A black mold, though not the "toxic black mold." Cladosporium commonly grows on insulation in AC systems, on bathroom ceilings when there isn't enough ventilation, on foundation walls, on basement and crawlspace ceiling joists and subflooring, and on attic sheathing. It is sometimes found on walls and wallpaper in rooms where insulation is lacking.

Mucor A rapidly growing fungus that is usually dark gray or light olive gray. Mucor is often found in soil, dead plant material, horse dung, fruits, and fruit juice. It is also found in leather, meat, dairy products, animal hair, and dust. It is frequently found in air samples from indoor environments. Accumulated dust in HVAC systems and poorly maintained carpeting may contain high concentrations of Mucor spores.

Penicillium A green bread mold, but also grows in other places of the house, such as in an AC system, at leaky areas, and flood areas where humidity has been elevated for an extended time, etc. It is also found on shoes and furniture in damp basements.

Phoma A common indoor air allergen producing pink and purple spots on painted walls, butter, cement, and rubber.

Aureobasidium Pullulans A cosmopolitan fungus mainly found on plants. Frequently found in moist environments. It is known to be the most toxic mold.

Trichoderma It is commonly found in soil, dead trees, pine needles, paper, and unglazed ceramics. It often will grow on other fungi. It produces antibiotics which are toxic to humans.