



Mold | What Should I Know?

Mold Basics

Molds are simple, tiny organisms found everywhere around us, both indoors and outdoors.

Tiny mold spores travel easily through the air. When the situation is just right, mold spores can grow indoors.

By taking important steps, you can prevent and control mold growth inside your home.

How Mold Grows

Mold spores need three things to grow:



A food source



Moisture



The right temperature

The Key to Mold Control is Moisture Control

Moisture, or water, is essential for mold to grow. Common household problems that can lead to mold growth include leaking roofs, pipes, or plumbing fixtures, and flooding.



Three steps for dealing with mold:

1. Quickly identify and fix the moisture source. Mold testing is not necessary; if you see or smell mold, mold is present. All mold should be treated the same.
2. Clean as much of the moldy area as possible.
3. Keep the area dry through good ventilation and/or a dehumidifier.

Mold and Your Health

Discuss any concerns you have about mold and your health with your doctor.

Mold affects everyone differently. Being around mold does not mean there is an immediate health concern.

Some people experience allergy-type reactions such as nasal stuffiness, wheezing, or itchy eyes.

Some people can have stronger reactions and should avoid moldy areas. These people include:

- People with asthma
- Children and the elderly
- Those with breathing problems or weakened immune systems (like those with cancer)

Who to Call

Mold remediation contractors and indoor air consultants can help fix mold problems. A list of these Wisconsin professionals can be found at:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mold

You will find detailed information on hiring a contractor. These professionals can help fix the problem.

Remember, the key to mold control is moisture control.

