



Ten Things You Should Know About Mold

- ✓ Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints.
- ✓ There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.
- ✓ If mold is a problem in your home or school, you must clean up the mold and eliminate the sources of moisture.
- ✓ Fix the source of water problem or leak to prevent mold growth.
- ✓ Reduce indoor humidity (to 30-60%) to decrease mold growth by: venting bathrooms, dryers, and other moisture-generating sources to the outside; using air conditioners and de-humidifiers; increasing ventilation; and using exhaust fans whenever cooking, dishwashing, and cleaning.
- ✓ Clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.
- ✓ Clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles that are moldy may need to be replaced.
- ✓ Prevent condensation: Reduce the potential for condensation on cold surfaces (i.e., windows, piping, exterior walls, roof, or floors) by adding insulation.
- ✓ In areas where there is a perpetual moisture problem, do not install carpeting (i.e., by drinking water fountains, by classroom sinks, or on concrete floors with leaks or frequent condensation).
- ✓ Molds can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any substance, providing moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods.

For Further Information: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/moldresources.html>
IAQ Information Clearinghouse: 1-800-438-4318