WATER DEPARTMENT
NEWS AND UPDATES

MOLD

Mold can grow on almost any surface. There is no way to rid your home completely of all mold spores. Most molds do not harm healthy people. Sensitive people can experience skin rash, runny nose, eye irritation, cough, congestion, or difficulty breathing. A small number of molds produce mycotoxins. High levels of these toxins can cause fatigue, nausea, headaches, and lung and eye irritation.

Mold is present if you smell a "musty" odor or see small black or white spots. It often grows where there has been water damage or plumbing leaks. Rooms with high water use, such as kitchens, laundry rooms, and bathrooms are more susceptible to mold. Look for mold by doors and windows, behind furniture and appliances, in sink cabinets, in tubs and showers, and under wallpaper or carpet if these have been water damaged.

Prevent mold by repairing leaks in plumbing and roofs, keeping water away from foundations, increasing air flow in your home with windows or fans, keeping a few inches between large objects (like a dresser or fridge) and an exterior wall, and by keeping windows dry. Humidity or dampness in the air can also encourage mold growth. Indoor relative humidity should be kept below 60 percent, ideally between 30 and 50 percent.

Clean mold by washing the area with a mild detergent such as laundry detergent, let dry (optional: wipe area with a solution of ¼ cup bleach to 1 gallon of water, wait 20 minutes and repeat), apply a borate based detergent (laundry or dish washer soap with borate) solution and don't rinse (borate helps prevent mold from growing).

Use goggles, gloves, and breathing protection when cleaning mold. Hire a professional for large or serious mold issues. For more detailed information visit: www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4300/Mold.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US: water@surfsideonline.org
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