

BASIC FACTS ABOUT MOLD AND DAMPNESS

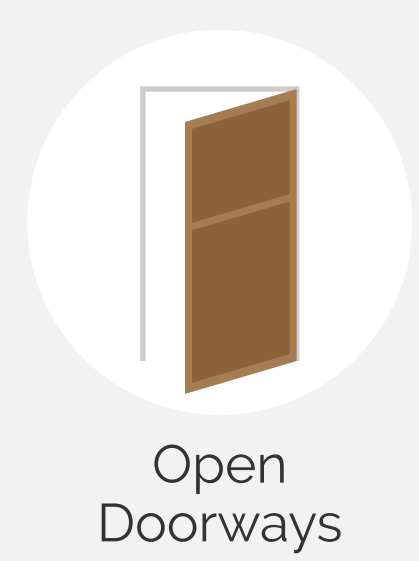
HOW COMMON IS MOLD IN BUILDINGS?

Molds are very common in buildings and homes. Mold will grow in places with a lot of moisture, such as around leaks in roofs, windows, or pipes, or where there has been flooding.

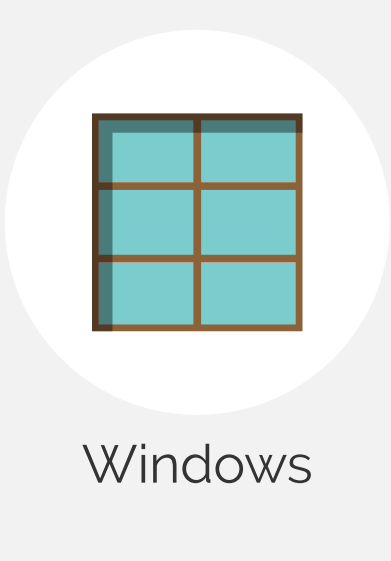


HOW DO MOLDS GET IN THE INDOOR

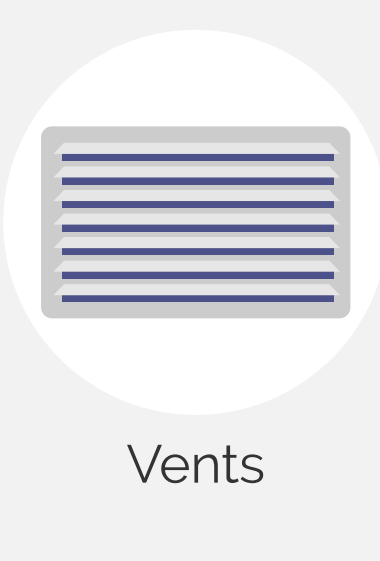
Mold is found both indoors and outdoors. Mold can enter your home through



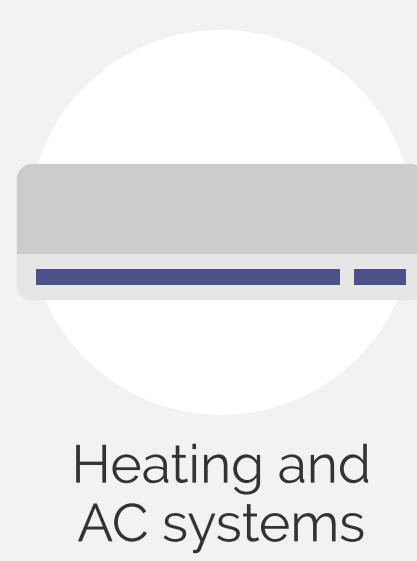
Open Doorways



Windows



Vents



Heating and AC systems



Clothing



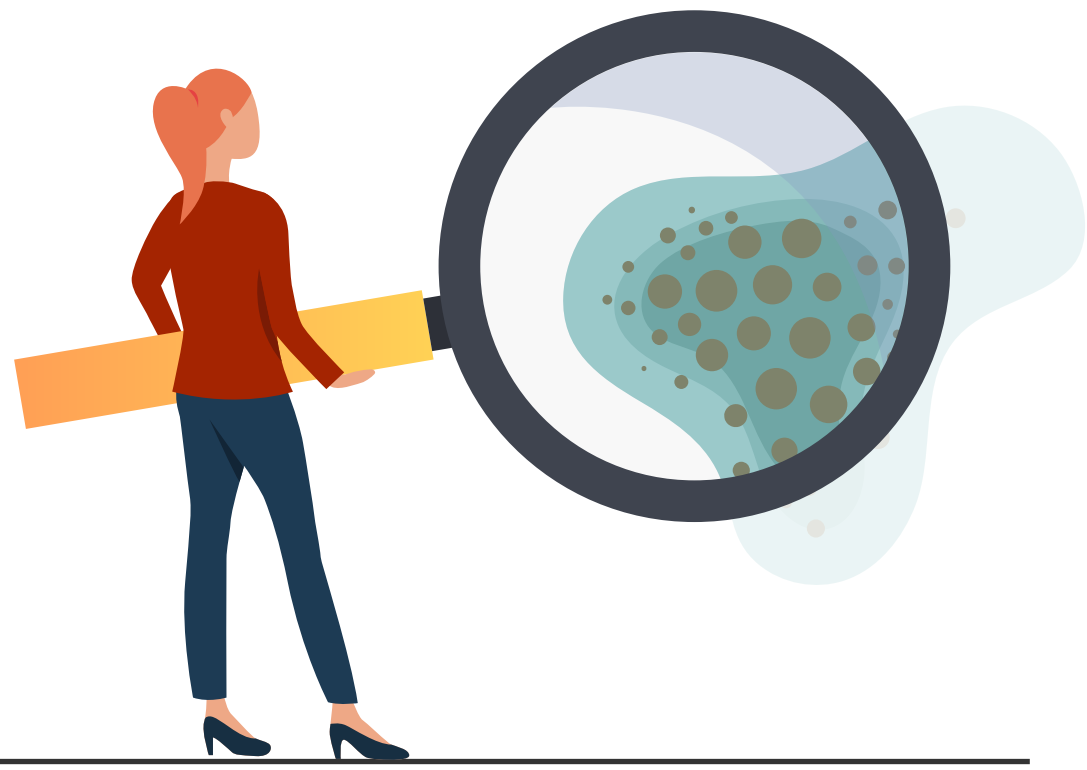
Shoes



Pets

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE A MOLD PROBLEM

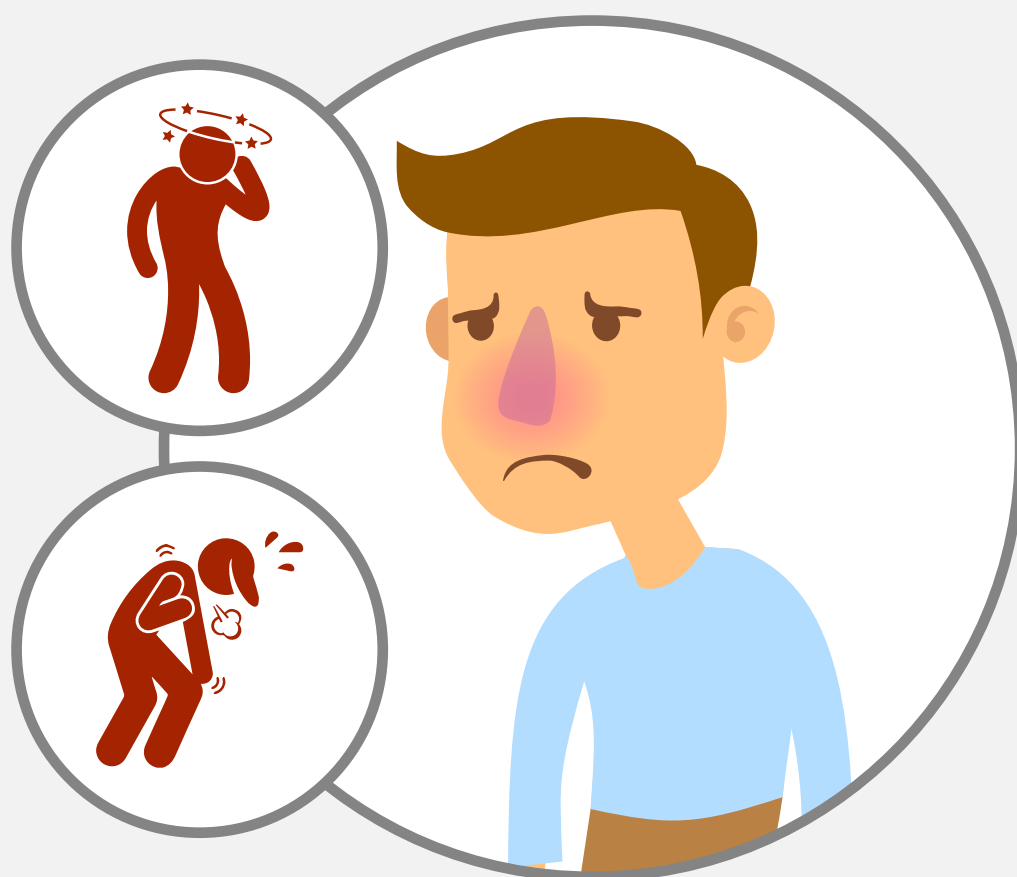
Large mold infestations can usually be seen or smelled.



HOW DO MOLDS AFFECT PEOPLE

Exposure to damp and moldy environments may cause a variety of health effects, or none at all. Some people are sensitive to molds. For these people, exposure to molds can lead to symptoms such as stuffy nose, wheezing, and red or itchy eyes, or skin. Some people, such as those with allergies to molds or with asthma, may have more intense reactions.

There are also certain types of mold, or certain heightened levels of normal molds, which can cause adverse effects in many individuals.



HOW DO YOU KEEP MOLD OUT OF BUILDINGS

Inside your home you can control mold growth by:



Controlling humidity levels



Promptly fixing leaky roofs, windows, and pipes



Thoroughly cleaning and drying after flooding



Ventilating shower, laundry, and cooking areas.

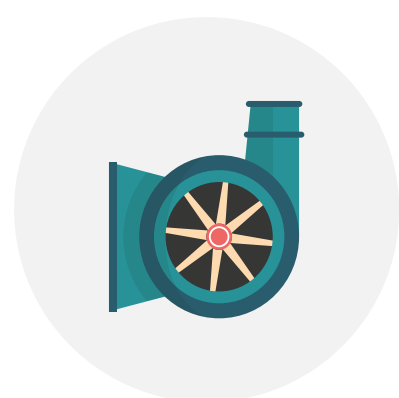
SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:



Keep humidity levels as low as you can—between 30% and 50%—all day long



Use an air conditioner or a dehumidifier during humid months.



Use exhaust fans which vent outside your home in the kitchen and bathroom.



Consider not using carpet in rooms or areas like bathrooms or basements that may have a lot of moisture.

HOW DO YOU GET THE MOLDS OUT OF BUILDINGS

Remove moldy items from living areas.

Once mold starts to grow in carpet, insulation, ceiling tiles, drywall, or wallboard, the only way to deal with the problem is by removal and replacement.

Mold growth can be removed from hard, non-porous surfaces with commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than 1 cup (8 ounces) of bleach in 1 gallon of water to kill mold on surfaces.



IF YOU CHOOSE TO USE BLEACH TO CLEAN UP MOLD:



Never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners. Mixing bleach with ammonia or other cleaning products will produce dangerous, toxic fumes.



Open windows and doors to provide fresh air.



Wear non-porous gloves and protective eye wear.

ARE THERE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE PEOPLE SHOULD VACATE A HOME OR OTHER BUILDING BECAUSE OF MOLD?

These decisions have to be made individually. If you believe you are ill because of exposure to mold in a building, you should consult your physician to determine the appropriate action to take.

