



mold control

Molds are fungus-like germs that are widespread in nature. They are recyclers- they rot every organic matter and turn it into dirt. Total avoidance is difficult. A number of precautions can be taken to limit exposure. Molds give out fine spherical granules called spores which become airborne and settle on organic matter and germinate when conditions are favorable.

Outdoors:

- Avoid dead decaying vegetation, raking leaves, hay, grass smuts, mushrooms, etc.
- Avoid grain handling operations, contact with feed barns, silos, and hay stacks. If you must work in moldy places air them out before you go in, and stay in for the shortest time needed
- Avoid traveling in rural areas after harvest
- Dense vegetation, decomposing leaves should be cleared from around living and working quarters.
- Camping in woods, swimming in lakes, and hay rides gives exposure to molds.

Indoors:

- If your house smells musty or moldy, look for the source. Mold grows in damp, dark areas with poor circulation on organic matter. Basements, crawl spaces, and attics are areas where molds may grow. If there is moisture and too much humidity in the basement (wall sweat), use a dehumidifier to reduce it.
- Make sure your home's roof gets enough sun (4 to 5 hrs/day) and that air moves around well. Remove trees, if necessary, that block the sunlight. Make sure your attic space is well ventilated and there is not moisture collection in the insulation.
- Bathrooms may grow mildew and mold because of moisture. Let air circulate through the bathroom. Change and wash towels and mats frequently. Mildew can grow on common household items such as shower stalls, draperies, wallpaper, luggage, shoes, gloves, and stored clothing. Raw cotton (kapok) used as stuffing for mattresses and upholstered furniture can grow mold. Wool and hemp are also sources of molds. Wash these items and dry completely before use. You may sprinkle these with Borax to prevent mold growth. Molds can grow under the carpets too. Carpets should preferably be glued rather than tacked.
- Indoor plants can breed mold in their dirt base. If you see a lot of mold fuzz in the dirt, remove it and cover the dirt with glass beads or marbles.
- Certain workers are occupationally exposed to mold spores. People who work in saw mills, dusty factories, or furniture factories and farmers should lay their work clothes shoes and other personal items outside the house.

Cleaning:

Zephiran chloride in aqueous solution may be used. Dilute 1 oz. of the material with 1 gallon of water, and use this solution to remove molds from indoors.

Borax powder in a solution is another mold retardant. You may sprinkle Borax on mold basement wall and corners.

All appliances like humidifiers, dehumidifiers, and air-conditioners should be serviced to remove accumulated molds which can cause serious recurrent pneumonias.

Waterbeds need care. Follow the instructions to prevent mold growth in the water.

Mold resistant paints and wallpapers should be used whenever possible.

