

BUILDING ANALYSTS



"Honey, this bathroom smells a little moldy!"

THE MOLD MONSTER - PART I

WHAT IS MOLD?

Molds are micro-organisms that are a natural part of our environment. There are different types of mold such as *Stachybotrys*, *Penicillium*, and *Aspergillus*. If molds are left untreated they can spread, and in some cases, cause damage to your home. Mold spores are present in the air. They multiply in the presence of moisture, proper temperatures, and food sources, such as wood and other organic building materials.

COMMON REASONS WHY MOLD GROWS:

- 1 Humidity - once mold growth starts, elevated humidity will sustain mold growth.
- 2 Stagnant Air - poor circulation in a room / closet.
- 3 Dust - accumulation of soil, dander, and fibers from carpeting and fabrics.
- 4 Moisture - dampness from water leaks or condensation.

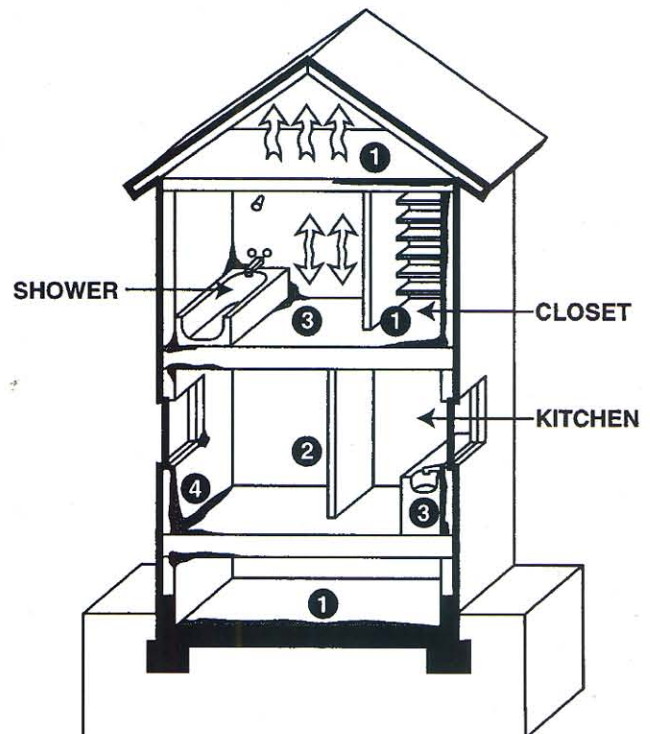
COMMON PLACES WHERE MOLD CAN GROW:

- 1 Attics, crawlspaces, and closets.
- 2 Wall and ceiling cavities.
- 3 Kitchens, bathrooms and showers.
- 4 Windows.

Cellulose or organic materials such as:

- Particle board, wood, and paper.
- Carpets.
- Shoes and leather goods.

This newsletter was coordinated with the assistance of Dan Baxter, President and owner of Environmental Testing Associates, who specializes in indoor air quality and bioaerosol analysis.



HOW DOES MOLD EFFECT US?

Water intrusion and relative humidity in the air play a major role in the growth of micro-organisms. When combined with a dirty environment and poor circulation mold will begin to grow and spread on wood, walls, ceilings, etc. When spores are inhaled they may cause severe allergies, asthma symptoms and other serious health related problems.

Building Analysts is a full-service architectural and engineering firm with many years of experience in construction litigation. Our services include: architectural and structural investigations, repair recommendations, preparation of exhibits and expert testimony. We hope this newsletter is helpful. Please contact Stan Livingston, Pete diGirolamo, Bob Carroll or Dave Kuivanen if you need our input or recommendation:
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NEXT ISSUE: Mold Monster, Part II -

How to Detect Mold and What To Do About It.