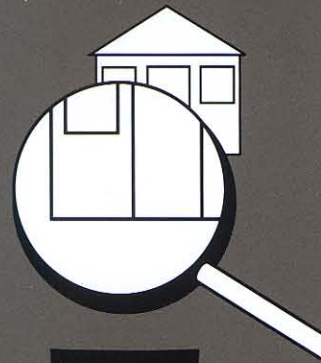




"Hey Dad, Mom said to use chlorine to kill mold"



BUILDING ANALYSTS

THE MOLD MONSTER - PART II

HOW DO WE KNOW MOLD IS PRESENT?

Knowing how to detect mold can be one of the first steps to improving your environment. Some molds can sometimes be mistaken for dirt. Because there are various types and growth stages of mold, the following are the first few steps you can look for:

- 1 **Odor** - If there is mold growth present there will be a musty smell or odor of organic decay.
- 2 **Color** - The color of mold varies on the type and stage of growth.
- 3 **Water staining** - Discoloration of water staining of flooring, carpeting, wall, or ceiling surfaces may be present.

COMMON TYPES OF MOLD:

- 1 **Penicillium** - Identification to species can be difficult; commonly found in air samples, carpet, and wallpaper.
- 2 **Aspergillus Niger** - Most commonly found in soils and animal manure and has a musty odor.
- 3 **Cladosporium** - Identified as outdoor fungus and usually found on dead plants, woody plants, and soil.
- 4 **Stachybotrys Chartarum** - Greenish-black mold that can grow on high cellulose materials, such as drywall sheetrock, ceiling tiles, and wood. This mold is associated with chronic moist areas such as leaky windows and showers.
- 5 **Alternaria** - Often found on window frames, carpets, textiles, and on horizontal surfaces in building exteriors.
- 6 **Zygomycetes** - Most commonly found on bread.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT MOLD GROWTH?

Different stages of mold growth will dictate clean up / removal procedures. To eliminate an indoor mold problem and prevent reinfection the following is recommended:*

- 1 Kill off the mold spore and colonies at the contaminated sites by washing with water, chlorine and detergent solution.
- 2 Clean any other sites that may be storing mold spores, so that they cannot continue to release spores and re-infect sites.
- 3 Find and eliminate sources of excessive water.
- 4 Keep surfaces cleaner than normal.
- 5 Provide continuous, controlled ventilation.

* These remedies are suggested for surface mold only. Contact a specialist to identify the species and advise on proper remedial techniques.



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NEXT ISSUE: *Why Stucco Cracks*