



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MOLD FACTSHEET

What are molds?

Molds are fungi that can be found both indoors and outdoors. No one knows how many species of fungi exist but estimates range from tens of thousands to perhaps three hundred thousand or more. Molds grow best in warm, damp, and humid conditions, and spread and reproduce by making spores. Mold spores can survive harsh environmental conditions, such as dry conditions, that do not support normal mold growth (Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 2005).

How do molds affect people?

Some people are sensitive to molds. For these people, exposure to molds can cause symptoms such as nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, wheezing, or skin irritation. Some people, such as those with serious allergies to molds, may have more severe reactions. Severe reactions may occur among workers exposed to large amounts of molds in occupational settings, such as farmers working around moldy hay. Severe reactions may include fever and shortness of breath. Some people with chronic lung illnesses, such as obstructive lung disease, may develop mold infections in their lungs (CDC, 2005)

How can people decrease mold exposure?

Sensitive individuals should avoid areas that are likely to have mold, such as compost piles, cut grass, and wooded areas. Inside homes, mold growth can be slowed by keeping humidity levels between 40% and 60%, and ventilating showers and cooking areas. If there is mold growth in your home, you should clean up the mold and fix the water problem (CDC, 2005). Other recommendations for controlling mold in the home include:

- Keep the humidity level in the house between 40% and 60%.
- Use an air conditioner or a dehumidifier during humid months.
- Be sure the home has adequate ventilation, including exhaust fans.
- Add mold inhibitors to paints before application.
- Clean bathrooms with mold killing products.
- Do not carpet bathrooms and basements.
- Remove or replace previously soaked carpets and upholstery.

I found mold growing in my home, how do I test the mold?

There is no government agency that provides mold investigation services to the general public; however you may hire an Indoor Air Quality Consultant or an Indoor Air Quality Abatement Company to assist you with investigation and/or cleanup. If you are a renter and you feel your landlord/property owner has not been responsive to your concerns regarding mold, you can contact your local housing authority. Contact information for Riverside County Fair Housing and Indoor Air Quality companies is located on the back of this handout.

For Renter/Landlord disputes, contact Riverside County Fair Housing: 1-800-655-1812

For general mold information, refer to the State's website: www.cal-iaq.org

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Indoor Air Quality Consultants/Abatement Companies

Allstate Services

1631 Market St., Suite B
Corona, CA 92880
Steven Travers
951-340-1717

Pure Air Control Services

1908 N. Enterprise Street
Orange, CA 92865
Alan Wozniak or Mat Banes
727-572-4550

Calvada Environmental Services, Inc.

108 Business Center Drive
Corona, CA 92880
Timothy Lane
951-736-1217

Quality Microbiology Services, Inc.

18017 Sky Park Circle, Suite G
Irvine, CA 92614
Jean Su
949-660-0698

Certified Bio Services, LLC

2115 S. Hellman Ave.
Ontario, CA 91761
Bruce D. Lindsey
909 930 3983

Wolverine Environmental, Inc.

630 S. Glassell St., Ste. 100 E
Orange, CA 92866
Mark Drollinger
714-744-6829

Healthy Buildings International, Inc.

199 Technology, Suite 150
Irvine, CA 92618
Simon Turner
949-450-1111