

Notes from A to Z

412-7861

Mold! or you can't get there from here.

Permit me to cover four key points regarding "mold".

- #1. There is no accepted standard for identifying mold by the State of Oklahoma or by the Federal Government. (This is one reason insurance will not cover mold.)
- #2. There is no recognized certification for a "mold" expert, "mold" training, "mold" remediation, etc. by the state of Oklahoma or the Federal Government. (There are hundreds of organizations offering 'certificates' and 'designation', and some of them are of high quality and provide excellent training, but none are recognized by any official entity of the State of Oklahoma or the Federal Government.)
- #3. There are numerous reputable labs and environmental specialists available to you if you have a serious concern regarding mold.

Oklahoma City

A to Z Building Inspections (405) 412-7861

We will subcontract out all mold investigations to a degreed professional that works with OSHA recognized labs.

Additional Labs/Resources

Aerotech Laboratories, Inc.
2020 West Lone Cactus Drive

Phoenix, Arizona 85027
(800) 651-4802 (US)
(623) 780-4800

**National Coalition on Indoor
Air Quality**

1518 K Street NW, Suite 503
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 737-2956

**Occupational Safety and
Health Administration**

200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20210
(202) 523-5181

Underwriters Laboratories

333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60062
(312) 272-8800

US Environmental Protection Agency

Public Information Center
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 260-2080

American Indoor Air Quality Council

P.O. Box 11599
Glendale, AZ 85318-1599
(623) 582-0832

**Oklahoma Department of
Environmental Quality**

707 N. Robinson
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
405-702-0100

- #4. **Common Sense Clean Up: Scrub down and/or replace. (Use respirators and protective equipment for eyes and Skin.)**
 - A. Non-porous surfaces can be cleaned and disinfected with soap and water, bleach and a scrub brush.
 - B. Porous materials need to be replaced.

If you would like to read one of the first instruction on mold/mildew remediation, read Leviticus Chapter 14, verses 33-47.

Currently there are no United States Federal or Oklahoma regulations for evaluating potential health effects of fungal contamination (mold/mildew) or for remediation or for certification of personnel. Can there be a serious problem and/or serious health effects? YES. It is rare, almost impossible to prove, and very expensive. There are professional resources available if you have a serious problem.

If we may answer questions or provide you with "The Twelve Things You Should Know About Mold" please call **A to Z Building Inspection** at (405) 412-7861.

All information is from "EPA-Mold Resources", Aerotech Laboratories, Inc., "Mold Investigations" by Charles Cravens, and the Journal of Environmental Health.

**A to Z Building Inspections serves OKC and a 50 mile radius.
Please, call if A to Z may be of service. (405) 412-7861.**

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12 Things You Should Know About Mold

1. Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposure include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints.
2. There is no practical way to eliminate all molds and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.
3. If mold is a problem in your home or school, you must clean up the mold and eliminate the sources of moisture.
4. Fix the source of the water problem or leak to prevent mold growth.
5. Reduce indoor humidity (to 30-60%) to decrease mold growth; venting bathrooms, dryers, and other moisture generating sources to the outside; using air conditioners and de-humidifiers; increasing ventilation; and using exhaust fans whenever cooking, dishwashing, and cleaning.
6. Have your air ducts cleaned.
7. Purchase a high quality air purifier.
8. Clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 24-48 hrs to prevent mold growth.
9. Clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent and dry completely. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles, that are moldy, may need to be replaced.
10. Prevent condensation: Reduce the potential for condensation on cold surfaces (i.e., windows, piping, exterior walls, roof or floors) by adding insulation.
11. In areas where there is a perpetual moisture problem, don't install carpeting (i.e. by drinking fountains, by classroom sinks, or on concrete floors with leaks or frequent condensation.)
12. Molds can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any substance, providing moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet and foods.

Health and Mold

Molds can trigger asthma episodes in sensitive individuals with asthma. Exposure to biological pollutants can cause allergic reactions, which range from rhinitis, nasal congestion, conjunctive inflammation, and urticaria to asthma. Notable triggers for these diseases are allergen derived from house dust mites; other arthropods, including cockroaches, vermin, pets, molds and protein containing furnishings, including feathers, kapok, etc. In occupational settings, more unusual allergens (e.g., bacterial enzymes, algae) have caused asthma epidemics. Probably most proteins of non-human origin can cause asthma in a subset of any appropriately exposed population.

