

Mold Fact Sheet

What Is Mold?

Mold is a type of fungus that can produce spores which are released into the air. It can be found almost anywhere that moisture and organic matter are present. While mold spores are usually harmless in small amounts, they may cause health problems when inhaled in large numbers.

Where Is Mold Most Common?

Mold can be found most commonly in damp, moist areas such as bathrooms and basements. Although not common, mold can also be found in bedrooms and living areas. It is common for mold to grow on material like fiberboard, gypsum board, and paper.

Does Mold Have a Distinct Color?

No, mold does not have one distinct color. Mold varies in a range of colors like black, white, green, gray, brown, orange, pink, purple, red and yellow. The most common colors of mold you'll find indoors are green, black and gray mold.

What Should I Do If I Find Mold in My Living or Work Area?

If you find small areas of mold in your dorm room, bathroom, common area, or in your primary workspace, you should clean the area with disinfectant wipes. Common areas where mold growth can be safely cleaned by healthy individuals include, but are not limited to, air conditioning units, bathroom showers, walls, and ceilings, as well as ventilation systems where air moves in or out. Individuals who are immunocompromised or have specific health conditions (e.g., asthma) should submit a request to their Resident Advisor (RA) or file a Work Order to request assistance with mold cleaning.

Where Can I Get Supplies to Clean Mold?

In our dormitories, the RA's office will be provided with disinfectant wipes to be distributed to residential students upon request. Employees can obtain disinfecting wipes by submitting a request to Mail & Supply. These wipes contain sodium hypochlorite (bleach), which can irritate the skin. Therefore, disposable nitrile gloves will also be provided for use while handling. Click the QR code below for more information on safe and proper usage.

How Should I Dispose of the Dirty Wipes?

After you wipe up the moldy area, put the wipes in a closed trash can if one is available, otherwise, a Ziplock bag or tying off the trash bag will suffice. Afterwards, make sure you wash your hands with soap and water.

What Happens If I Can't Reach the Effected Area?

If a student observes mold on the ceiling of a bathroom, dorm room, or common area, speak to an RA who will ensure a Work Order is submitted. Employees should submit their own Work Order for unreachable mold in their workspace.

What Happens If the Mold Comes Back?

If the mold keeps reoccurring and/or gets worse, it might be indicative of a bigger problem. Students should contact an RA and/or member of Resident Life so that a Work Order can be submitted to initiate further investigation. Larger areas of mold may be referred to an outside contractor in some instances.

What Can I Do to Prevent Mold Growth in the Future?

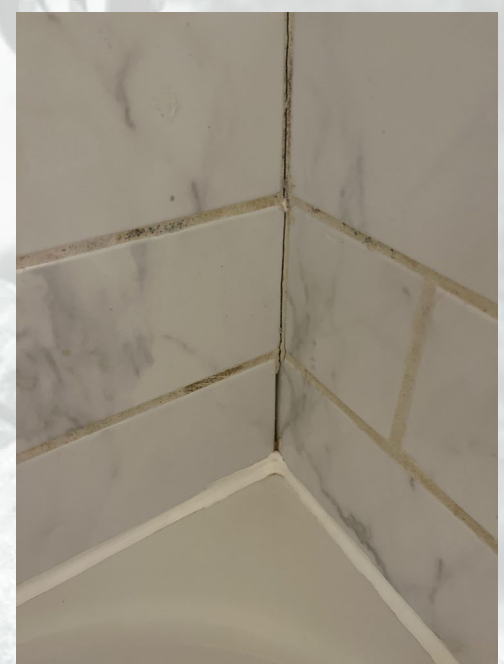
The best thing you can do to prevent mold growth is to clean the susceptible area regularly and/or dry them to remove moisture. Also, improving ventilation in an affected area, such as running the exhaust fan while showering, and for at least 30 minutes afterward, can help conditions considerably.



This picture shows mold growth around a WIFI router in a dorm room. Small amounts of mold like this can be easily cleaned with a disinfecting wipe.



This picture shows mold growth in the corner of a room. In this instance an RA should be notified and a Work Order submitted so that someone from EH&S or Trades Services can investigate further.



This picture shows mold in the grout lines of a shower stall. To clean this, use a disinfectant solution (i.e., bleach) and a scrub brush, or use a disinfecting wipe.

For more information, contact:
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Information on Mold Awareness can be found at Farmingdale State College's Industrial Hygiene page.



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