



Township of Hillsborough

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MOLD IN THE HOME

WHAT IS MOLD?

- Mold is found everywhere! There are over 200,000 known species.
- Grows from spores. Spores are found EVERYWHERE, both inside and outside.
- The spores need moisture and food to grow. Some common food sources that mold use include wood, wallpaper, sheetrock, paper, wool, leather, hair and dust.
- **The key to preventing or eliminating mold growth is to remove the moisture.....NO MOISTURE, NO MOLD!!!!**

SHOULD I TEST MOLD I FOUND?

- People are often focused on testing the mold to find out if it is “dangerous or not”. Different types of mold affect, or do NOT affect, people differently. A type of mold that has no effect on one person could be very irritating to another.
- Rather than focus on what kind of mold you found, focus on finding the source of the moisture which caused the mold in the first place.

HOW DO I CLEAN/REMOVE MOLD?

If mold is on hard, non-porous material, like wood, countertops:

- Ventilate the area or room as much as possible. Open windows and doors while working and place fans in the windows, blowing the air OUTSIDE.
- A N95 mask (available at hardware stores) should be worn while working. Protect the rest of home by hanging plastic sheeting in doorways.
- **DO NOT SPRAY MOLD WITH BLEACH.** Instead, make a solution with Trisodium Phosphate (“TSP”, available at hardware stores) or a mild detergent and water. Scrub hard/non-porous items with a brush or wipe with clothes, then wipe dry. Use as little water as possible when mixing cleaning solutions, as the key is to use it to help remove mold and dry the surface as quickly as possible. Soaking a surface, even with a cleaning agent, will lead to new mold growth. Use fans, increased ventilation, or dehumidifier in the work area to remove moisture ASAP. **DO NOT USE BLEACH!** Bleach will kill mold, but the bleach will dissipate and leave water on whatever you sprayed, which will feed new mold. Also, when mold dies, it can be MORE harmful than when it was alive!!!

HOW DO I CLEAN/REMOVE MOLD? (CONTINUED)

If mold is on soft, porous material, like drywall or furniture:

- Item or material must be discarded/replaced. There is no way for you to completely remove all spores, and if any are left, it will begin to grow again.
- If you aren't comfortable removing the mold, hire a professional company that deals with mold remediation.

HOW DO I PREVENT MOLD FROM COMING BACK?

- If mold grew in an area once, it can come back if you don't remove the moisture.
- Increase ventilation to the area, or use a dehumidifier to remove moisture.
- Check gutters and downspouts to make sure they are draining away from the foundation of your house. Also, make sure the grading around your house is pitched away from your house.
- **The key to preventing or eliminating mold growth is to remove the moisture.....NO MOISTURE, NO MOLD!!!!**

For additional guidance, please see:

US EPA Mold Website

<https://www.epa.gov/mold>