

Mold



Toolbox Talk #25

What is Mold?

Well to start most people use the term mold and fungi interchangeably but mold is actually a type of fungi. There are thousands of species of mold and most if not all of the mold found indoors comes from outdoor sources. It seems likely to grow and become a problem only when there is water damage, high humidity, or dampness. Mold grows in various places; it could be in your wall, floors, appliances, carpet, or in your furniture. Many of you have to work in basements and crawl spaces and those are likely location to have mold.

How Can Mold Harm You?

Mold is an interesting substance because it can be fatal to those who have a mold allergy or asthma. Yet, at the same time, it could be harmless to others. The following groups of people are more at risk for negative reactions to mold encounters: People age 60 and above, Infants and children, People who have HIV, Cancer, Liver or Lung Disease, or that are receiving chemotherapy.

Mold Reactions: If you are sensitive to mold encountering it could result in sneezing, runny nose, redness in the eyes, skin rash, shortness of breath, and asthma attacks.

How to Eliminate Mold?

It is nearly impossible to rid all mold and mold spores in your work environment, but you can limit mold by using a few of the tips listed below.

- Use dehumidifiers and air conditioners, especially in hot, humid climates, to reduce moisture in the air.
- Dry wet areas within 24 to 48 hours to prevent mold growth.
- Use exhaust fans to move moisture outside.
- Be sure crawl spaces are ventilated by using fans and having vents installed in outside walls if necessary.
- Keep heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) drip pans clean, flowing properly, and unobstructed.
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