

12 Mold Facts for Homeowners, Landlords, Tenants, & Employers

1. Mold is a very large group of microscopic fungi that live on plant or animal matter. Most are filamentous organisms and produce spores that can be air-, water-, or insect-borne.

2. Airborne mold spores are everywhere both indoors and outdoors. Resident and employee health is at serious risk if there are elevated levels of mold spores indoors, as compared to an outdoor mold control test.

3. The most dangerous indoor molds are Alternaria, Aspergillus, Chaetomium, Cladosporium, Fusarium, Mucor, Penicillium, and Stachybotrys. Mold testing and mold lab analysis are required to identify specific mold species.

4. Molds spores can cause serious health problems even if the spores are dead or dormant (inactive while waiting for more moisture to resume growth). Even the smell of dead or dormant mold can make some mold-sensitive persons ill.

5. There are no absolute levels of safe or unsafe mold infestation inside a home or other building. Because of the huge discrepancies person to person in mold sensitivity, what might be a harmless amount of mold exposure to one occupant can be devastating health-wise to another person. Usually, mold infestation is considered to be elevated if indoor mold samples show higher mold counts and more mold species indoors than in an outdoor mold control test. Mold infestation usually affects first and most strongly pregnant ladies [and their unborn babies], infants, elderly, and persons with immune system problems. But day in and day out, cumulative exposure to mold infestation can make healthy adults quite sick.

6. It is impossible to get rid of all mold spores indoors. Some mold spores will always be present in house dust and floating in the air.

7. The mold spores will not grow into mold colonies if there is insufficient moisture. Indoor mold growth can and should be prevented or controlled by controlling moisture indoors. If organic materials are wet for more than 24 hours, mold

8. Mold grows by eating and destroying organic building materials and other cellulose-based materials such as carpeting, upholstery, and clothing. The longer that mold grows, the more mold damage to the building. Growth can begin.

9. Cellulose is the main substance in the cell walls of plants (and thus of wood), and it is used in the manufacture of many organic building materials such as drywall, plasterboard, plywood substitutes, and ceiling tiles.

10. Mold can grow hidden and undetected inside wall and ceiling cavities; beneath wallpaper, paneling, and carpeting; and inside heating and cooling equipment and ducts, attics, crawl spaces, and basements.

11. Mold growth is often the result of a structural or construction defect, or of maintenance neglect, that allows moisture to enter the building.

12. The owner or employer must first fix the water problem (roof leak, plumbing leak, high indoor humidity) that enables the mold to grow. Effective mold remediation requires killing the mold with a mold home remedy recipe, removing it, and then re-treating the cleaned area with the mold home remedy recipe.

Serious mold growth on a wall [and probably also inside the wall] in an apartment in Los Angeles, California.



Advanced case of ceiling mold infestation growing on, inside, and probably also above the ceiling itself [hidden mold growth].