

MOLD CLEAN UP



MOLD – What is it?

- A natural occurring fungi
- It exists everywhere, both indoors and outdoors.
- Necessary part of eco-systems for the breakdown of matter
- Excessive amounts of indoor mold can be a problem
- Mold problems can be from water leaks, flooding, high humidity, lack of ventilation, inadequate insulation, wet areas, decaying matter



Health Problems with Excess **MOLD**

- Individual sensitivity to mold vary significantly
- Some people have no or very little health effects
- Most commonly is short-term symptoms such as:
 - eye, nose & throat irritation
 - cough, congestion
 - headaches
 - tired, trouble concentrating
- Some people with health conditions such as allergies, suppressed immune system, or other conditions may have longer lasting effects.

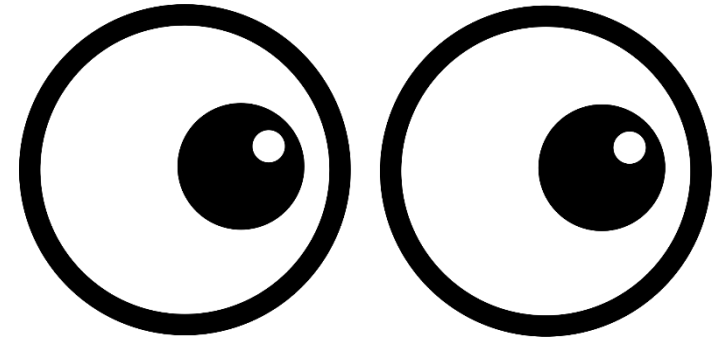


MOLD Prevention

The best prevention is reducing excess water or moisture:

- Humidity levels ideally 30-60%
- Consistent ventilation and temperature
- Local ventilation for high humidity (stoves, showers, laundry dryer)
- Insulate cold surfaces to prevent condensation (pipes, window)
- Clean-up water leaks, spills or floods immediately
- Remove spoiled foods, waste, damp clothing
- Avoid material stacking, and allow for ventilation around items
- Regular checking and maintenance of dehumidifiers, fridges, air conditioners

What to Watch For ???



Visual inspections are the most reliable way to identify mold growth.

Common signs are discoloration and staining – often as dark spots, stains or patches.

If mold is found, immediately report to Head Custodian for direction

Head Custodian will contact Operation personnel if situation is of concern (ie, source cannot be found, mold is recurring, moldy areas are excessive or widespread).

Here are the common places to watch for mold

CEILINGS



WALLS



CARDBOARD AND PAPER



WOOD



FURNITURE



FLOORING



WINDOWS



FOOD WASTE



MOLD Clean-up

BEGIN WITH THE SOURCE:

The source needs to be found and eliminated or else the problem will return. For example: pipe leak, humidity problem, garbage, etc.

- If the problem requires maintenance, submit as an emergency work request
- It is important to determine if the water is contaminated, for example sewage, personal safety precautions must be adhered to. If unknown, treat as if it is contaminated.
- If necessary, have occupants leave the area, cordon-off with signs/barriers
- Check for any other safety concerns (ie, electrical)
- Determine the extent of the water damage (walls, ceilings, flooring, school supplies, furniture)
- Wear any PPE (especially if risk of contaminated or unknown water): gloves, rubber boots, eye protection
- Remove all water with mops, scrubbers, wet vacs
- Remove all wet contents from the area. If it is salvageable, find a suitable location for drying. If it is unsalvageable, remove from the building for disposal.
- Begin drying area and contents with dehumidifiers, fans, heaters and running ventilation

MOLD Clean-up

AFTER SOURCE IS DEALT WITH, BEGIN MOLD CLEAN-UP:

School custodial staff can easily clean-up minor mold problems (generally surface areas <10 sq ft)

- Prior to start, discuss with Head Custodian on how to proceed (anything over 10 sq ft may need extra resources and should be reviewed with Operations personnel)
- PPE is a MUST even for minor clean-up – respiratory, gloves, eye protection
- Anyone not involved in clean-up to stay out of area (if possible wait to clean-up after hours)
- Dust suppression is recommended (misting, not soaking with water or disinfectant)
- During clean-up, have windows open
- Anything porous should be bagged and properly disposed (ceiling tiles, carpets, paper, books). If possible, take photos or document an inventory of teaching materials being removed.
- Anything non-porous can be cleaned using usual disinfectant and scrubbing
- NEVER USE BLEACH OR CLORINE – only Swish-provided disinfectant!
- Rinse with water
- Remove PPE, and wash hands thoroughly
- Allow to dry thoroughly – use fans and dehumidifiers

Mold Clean-up Completion

- When source of the problem has been fixed
- Mold clean-up process is finished
- Visible mold and mold odors no longer present
- Regular on-going checks for mold return



Healthy Schools