

WHAT IS MOLD?

A. Mold is a fungus that grows on the surface of objects such as wood, carpeting, drywall, paper and books. 100,000 species of mold exist and the majority of molds have little negative impact.

B. Musty odors, visible mold, water stains, moisture problems and physical symptoms of occupants are indicators of mold.

C. Health issues can occur if touched, inhaled or ingested. Individuals most vulnerable to mold are seniors, small children, infants and those with compromised immune systems. Symptoms include headaches, rashes and respiratory problems. Some experts believe immune system failure, loss of memory, brain damage and even death can be caused.

D. Dangerous molds include: *Stachybotrys chartarum*, *aspergillis*, *arimonium*, *penicilium*, *fusarium*, *trochonderma*.

E. Mold can exist and grow within 48 hours if:

- Temperate Climate (above 70 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Where a nutrient source exists (wood, paper, carpet etc)
- Moisture is present

F. Moisture is required for growth and, when removed, mold can stop growing and die, but remediation is costly.

G. Examples of water intrusion include leaking windows, doors, balconies, roofs, pipes, and sewage backups.

Health Issues

Dry *Stachybotrys* mold may become airborne and can cause Allergies, asthma, cold and flu symptoms, sore throats, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue, dermatitis and other health problems. Health issues can occur if the mold is touched, inhaled or ingested. Individuals most vulnerable to mold are seniors, small children, infants and those with compromised immune systems. Symptoms include headaches, rashes and respiratory problems. Some experts believe immune system failure, loss of memory, brain damage and even death can be caused.

If you are concerned over health issues, notify a medical professional immediately.

