

CHECK YOUR HOUSE FOR MOLD

DOES YOUR HOME HAVE FURRY GROWTH, BLACK STAINS, OR SPECKS OF DIFFERENT COLORS ON SURFACES?

These are molds that need to be cleaned up! Here are steps to prevent the your home from growth:

- 1 **Controlling humidity levels**
- 2 **Promptly fixing leaky roofs, windows, and pipes**
- 3 **Thoroughly cleaning and drying after flooding**
- 4 **Ventilating shower, laundry, and cooking areas**



Source: CDC's Basic Facts about Mold and Dampness and EPA's a Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home

1 What is mold?



Molds are common issues found in homes, molds grow where there is lot of **moisture, such as on leaky surfaces, windows, water pipes or where there has been flooding.** Molds can grow on dust, paints, drywall, carpet, fabric and upholstery. Mold can enter your home through open doorways, windows, vents, and heating and air conditioning systems. Many building materials provide suitable nutrients that encourage mold to grow.

2 Why is mold dangerous?

Molds can be found indoors and outdoors, **but indoor molds can affect some people's health.** Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores **may cause allergic reactions** in sensitive individuals. A 2004 Institute of Medicine (IOM) study found that there was sufficient evidence to link indoor exposure to mold, especially the black mold with upper respiratory tract symptoms, **cough, and wheeze even in healthy people,** and other conditions that harm the immune system.



3 Run regular maintenance of your home

- **Check for evidence**
Look for damage and visible mold. Correct conditions causing mold growth such as water leaks, condensation, infiltration, or flooding.



- **Look for evidence of Condensation**
Condensation is the process of water droplet accumulation on surfaces such as walls/windows and the water-air hits cold surfaces.



- **Look for evidence of Infiltration**
Infiltration is the process of outside air and water entering your homes unintentionally through gaps in the walls, ceilings, roof, and foundation.

4 Prevent mold by controlling the moisture in your home

- **Check for evidence of Moisture**
Moisture causes Mold and it is important to check your house for excess moisture to prevent mold.

The Key to Mold Control is Moisture Control

Mold... no one wants it in their home. Mold produces allergens and can cause health problems. Although mold is naturally found in the indoor environment, it won't grow without moisture.

Take steps to control mold and moisture indoors:

- Reduce humidity: use exhaust fans or open windows in kitchens and bathrooms, and use air conditioners or dehumidifiers as needed.
- Prevent condensation by reducing humidity, increasing ventilation, or raising the indoor air temperature.
- Completely dry any damp or wet surfaces within 24-48 hours, and fix the source of the water problem or leak.

If mold does grow in your home...

- Promptly fix the source of any water problems or leaks.
- Clean mold off of hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely.
- Absorbent materials that have mold growth may need to be replaced — e.g. ceiling tiles, carpet, furniture.
- If you are experiencing symptoms that you think are caused by mold, consult a medical professional.

Visit epa.gov/mold to learn what personal protective equipment to wear to limit your mold exposure. If mold or water damage is extensive, or the water is not clean, consult a professional.

EPA epa.gov/mold

This checklist was created in collaboration with the Flourishing Communities Collaborative at Georgia Tech
For more information, please visit:
fc2.design.gatech.edu

