



MOLD

How do you solve a problem like mold?

For many reasons, most people are intimidated by mold. There is a stigma that surrounds the entire issue, and with good reason, because mold is not often discussed, and education is needed.

The history of mold:

Mold really came into the forefront of news after hurricanes Katrina and Rita swept the Gulf coast in 2005. The flood waters that receded slowly provided a perfect place for mold to grow in homes that had to be vacated and left. This is not, however, a new type of phenomenon. Mold (and the required method of cleaning up said mold) is discussed at length in the Old Testament of the Bible, in the book of Leviticus. There are several different types of mold, many that are common and unnoticed.

Why is mold growing in my home?

Molds are part of the natural environment. Outdoors, molds play a part in nature by breaking down dead organic matter such as fallen leaves and dead trees, but indoors, mold growth should be avoided. Molds reproduce by means of tiny spores; the spores are invisible to the naked eye and float through outdoor and indoor air. Mold may begin growing indoors when mold spores land on surfaces that are wet. There are many types of mold, and none of them will grow without water or moisture.

How do I know if I have a mold problem?

Many people recognize the moldy odor before mold is actually seen. The musty smell that accompanies mold is obvious, and can be overwhelming. Mold has become more of a problem because of vacant and bank-owned properties. Because no one is there to smell the mustiness, a mold suspicion can become a mold disaster while no one is looking.

What do I do now?

If you suspect that you have mold, the best plan of action is to call a Certified Mold Remediation professional like **Action Restoration**, and have us inspect your building, and devise a plan to get rid of the problem. It would also be prudent to contact your property insurance agent or carrier, but be aware that mold is not covered under most policies.

It is impossible to get rid of all mold and mold spores indoors; some mold spores will be found floating through the air and in house dust. The mold spores will not grow if moisture is not present. Indoor

mold growth can and should be prevented or controlled by controlling moisture indoors. If there is mold growth in your home, you must clean up the mold **and** fix the water problem. If you clean up the mold, but don't fix the water problem, then, most likely, the mold problem will come back.

In the event of a mold discovery, **prompt** remediation of contaminated materials and infrastructure repair are the most important primary responses for property owners, and for the realtors who are trying to sell these homes. If action isn't taken, mold will continue to grow.

Action Restoration is a local, independent Restoration Contactor servicing all of West Michigan, and we're trained and licensed to take care of all your Water, Fire, and Mold problems in your home or business. Give us a call, and we'll take care of the problem quickly.

Ten Things You Should Know About Mold
Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints.
There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.
If mold is a problem in your home or school, you must clean up the mold and eliminate sources of moisture.
Fix the source of the water problem or leak to prevent mold growth.
Reduce indoor humidity (to 30-60%) to decrease mold growth by: venting bathrooms, dryers, and other moisture-generating sources to the outside; using air conditioners and de-humidifiers; increasing ventilation; and using exhaust fans whenever cooking, dishwashing, and cleaning.
Clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.
Clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles, that are moldy, may need to be replaced.
Prevent condensation: Reduce the potential for condensation on cold surfaces (i.e., windows, piping, exterior walls, roof, or floors) by adding insulation.
In areas where there is a perpetual moisture problem, do not install carpeting (i.e., by drinking fountains, by classroom sinks, or on concrete floors with leaks or frequent condensation).
Molds can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any substance, providing moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html>

Action Thoughts...

Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not snap.

Laugh and the world laughs with you

A local charity realized that the organization had never received a donation from the town's most wealthy person. The person in charge of contributions called him to persuade him to contribute.

"Our research shows that out of a yearly income of at least \$500,000, you give not a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?"

The man mulled this over for a moment and replied, "First, did your research also show that my mother is dying after a long illness, and has medical bills that are several times her annual income?"

Embarrassed, the charity rep mumbled, "Um ... no."

The man interrupts, "or that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?"

The stricken charity rep began to stammer out an apology, but was interrupted again.

"or that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident," the man's voice rising in indignation, "leaving her penniless with three children?!"

The humiliated charity rep, completely beaten, said simply, "I had no idea..."

On a roll, the man cut him off once again, "So if I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to you?"

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, gifted ability, or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace from that day. We cannot change our past, we cannot change the fact that people will act in certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing that we can do is play on the one string that we have and this string is, Attitude. I am convinced that life is ten percent what happens to me and ninety percent how I react to it. And so it is with you....We are in charge of our Attitudes.

- Charles Swindoll