

Information from Owens Corning



Facts about mold in buildings

Mold needs four things to grow

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| 1) Mold spores | 3) Food Source, such as wood |
| 2) Building temperature 40 – 100° F | 4) Water, moisture condensation |

Key to Mold Control is Controlling Moisture

Mold spores exist in almost every environment and the temperature ranges found in buildings will support mold growth. Also there is ample organic material in most buildings to allow mold to thrive. That leaves water or moisture as the critical factor to control. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "The key to mold control is moisture control."

Moisture Management

There are steps that can be taken to help control the level of moisture in buildings:

- Check foundation perimeter drains, foundation damp-proofing, proper backfilling & grading, roof overhangs, gutters and downspouts to keep water away from foundation of your home
- Repair any roof, wall or pipe leak as soon as possible
- Avoid unvented combustion heaters, which raise indoor humidity
- Eliminate where possible the use of humidifiers
- Maintain indoor relative humidity (RH) below 50%; as the weather gets colder, lower the interior humidity to reduce condensation on windows
- Utilize ventilation (exhaust fans) in all bathrooms & kitchen whenever moisture is generated by cooking or bathing
- Don't allow any surface to remain wet longer than 48 hours
- Surfaces should be dry before resuming construction

Many Building Materials Can Support Mold Growth When Wet

Fiber glass insulation is inorganic and does not support mold growth. Many organic materials when wet can support mold growth, such as the paper on gypsum board, the Kraft paper facing on some insulation, wood sheathing or framing, and any other component made from cellulose. Owens Corning has installation recommendations for insulation that are designed to limit the likelihood of insulation becoming wet. However, in the event that building insulation does become wet, steps should be immediately taken to eliminate the source of the moisture and to inspect and/or replace the insulation.

Recent News Stories Focus On Mold Problems In Buildings

Stories of large lawsuit settlements have involved situations in which leaky plumbing, doors, windows and roofs were left uncorrected for a period of time and resulted in a serious amount of mold contamination.

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