



BATH ENCLOSURE
MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION
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The Prevention, Identification and Remediation of Mold In and Around the Bath and Shower

Prevention

When excessive moisture or water accumulates indoors, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or unaddressed. There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment, but they can be controlled.

The key to mold control is moisture control. Reduce indoor humidity to 30 to 60 percent to decrease mold growth. Additional methods to inhibit mold growth include using air conditioners and dehumidifiers, increasing ventilation, and using exhaust fans.

Replacing a shower curtain with a bath enclosure is a key step in preventing water damage to floors and walls around the shower. Periodically check the seals and caulking around the bath enclosure to ensure that a watertight shower is maintained.

In areas where there is the potential for moisture problems, do not install carpeting. Do not simply cover mold with paint, stain, varnish or a moisture-proof sealer, as it may resurface.

Identification

If you can see mold, or if there is an earthy or musty odor, you can assume you have a mold problem. Experiencing one or more of the physical symptoms related to mold exposure can also be indicative of a mold problem.

Look for water stains, warped or rotting wood, and other signs that indicate water damage. Visible mold growth is found underneath materials where water has damaged surfaces, or behind walls. Check for discoloration and leaching from plaster.

Remediation

For small occurrences of mold growth, a homeowner can use the following procedures to clean the contaminated area. First, identify and correct the source of moisture. Next, clean the area with detergent, disinfect it with bleach, and allow it to dry properly. Finally, dispose of any material that has moldy residue, such as rugs, rotten wood or rags.

The most important step in the cleanup process is identifying and correcting the water problem. If not fixed properly, mold growth will return once the area becomes wet again.

During the cleaning and disinfecting process, wear gloves and keep the area well ventilated. It is important to allow water-damaged areas and items to dry for 48 to 72 hours to prevent future mold growth.

When disposing of materials contaminated with mold, several precautions should be taken. Gloves should be worn when handling moldy items. All contaminated materials to be discarded should be carefully bagged. This is particularly important because, when moldy material is dried out, spores are easily released into the air.

Larger cases of mold infestation require the attention of remediation specialists. A home or building that is suspected of causing illness or physical distress for the occupants should be examined by environmental hazard professionals. Air and mold samples must be removed and analyzed by a qualified laboratory.

Because modern homes and buildings are more airtight and better insulated in order to be more energy efficient, including reduced air exchange, airborne contaminants, such as fungi, may thrive. Caution must be used, because it is possible that homeowners could actually increase the levels of mold spores in the air by attempting extensive cleanup efforts without guidance from a professional. Additional information is needed before the most appropriate recommendations for home cleanup can be determined.