

MOLD & MILDEW

Mold and mildew are common indoor problems found on walls, ceilings, and sometimes furniture. In many cases, mold and mildew can be easily removed and prevented.

Common Questions

Should I test for mold in my home?

This is not recommended. Mold spores are commonly found in the air. That is why the Environmental Protection Agency doesn't support testing for mold in your home. There are no limits set for mold. However, if you can **see or smell** mold or mildew, you likely have it in your home.

If I have mold, should I be concerned about my health?

Mold can cause people to have watery eyes, runny nose, nasal congestion, coughing, wheezing, headache and fatigue.

Can mold damage my home?

Yes, mold could damage your home. Mold can cause structural damage and may indicate that you have moisture and/or ventilation issues.

If I have mold, what can I do?

If the area of mold is small (less than 3ft by 3ft) you can easily clean it yourself. Follow the steps below to remove mold from your home.

INSPECT

Mold needs water. Check your **showers, faucets, and pipes** for leaks, look for dripping **gutters**, and poor ventilation.

FIX

If you have a leak or a known source of water, **fix the problem**. This prevents the mold from coming back.

CLEAN

Make a cleaning solution to remove and kill the mold (see recipe in the sidebar). Wearing gloves and a mask, spray the cleaner on the mold and gently scrub it away with a cloth. Let the area dry completely. Repeat if necessary.

VENTILATE

Run bathroom fans during and after showers. Use stove fans when cooking. If you have a whole-house fan, consider running that to remove moisture from the home. Consider opening the windows on nice days!

Mold Cleaner Recipe

What you need

- White vinegar
- Water
- 1 spray bottle

Instructions

Fill the spray bottle halfway with vinegar. Fill the rest of the way with water, and gently shake to mix.



Still have questions?

Learn more at www.epa.gov/mold
Or ask your question directly through Ask Extension.

<https://ask2.extension.org/>