

## Mold 101

Mold is something that present in our environment and under normal circumstances does not pose any health concern. However, when indoor environments are subject to high moisture levels over an extended period time, mold can develop rapidly resulting in conditions that can cause serious health affects to anyone living or working in the affected environment.

As there are over 100,000 different mold species, it is very difficult to distinguish one species from another. Knowing whether or not the mold in your environment is hazardous cannot be ascertained by sight, so treat all molds as hazardous and follow these simple rules:

1. Determine the amount of mold present.
  - Less than 10 sq./ft. – Minimal health risk
  - 10 sq./ft. to 100 sq./ft. – Nominal health risk
  - Over 100 sq./ft. – High health risk
2. Area less than 10 sq. /ft. in size can be cleaned with a mold cleaner.
3. Areas greater than 10 sq. /ft. should be handled by a professional mold remediator.
4. Do not run fans or open windows which can create a draft and propagate the mold to other areas of the environment.
5. If possible, isolate the area by closing doors.
6. Remove people and pets from the environment, especially young children and the elderly.
7. If the affected area is between 10 sq. /ft. to 100 sq./ft. and cannot be isolated, leaving the residence is recommended.
8. If the affected area is greater than 100 sq./ft. leaving the residence is strongly recommended.

In some circumstances, an indoor environmental professional may be engaged to perform air sampling to determine the extent of, and type of mold present in the environment along with proper protocols for remediation.