



Controlling Mold in Schools

- Molds are fungi that can grow on many varied substances when excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials.
- **All molds have potential health effects, but some are especially toxic** and can cause sinus inflammation, nose bleeds, respiratory diseases, and can irritate existing asthma symptoms and allergies. Some can even have neurotoxic, reproductive, and carcinogenic properties.
- **There is no federal regulation concerning mold remediation in schools** and no state policy in PA.
- Moisture and mold can enter schools and buildings through any structural weakness (like leaky pipes or windows).
- **Even dead mold can cause reactions in some people, so mold must be removed, as well as killed.**

Managing Mold

Visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website to learn more about how mold management, including:

- Preventing mold
- Investigating moisture and mold problems
- Cleaning up mold and water damage

<http://www.epa.gov/mold/intro.html>

What You Can Do:

Approach your school about:

- Fixing leaky plumbing and leaks in the building.
- Reducing moisture levels by increasing ventilation and dehumidifying the air.
- Performing regular maintenance on heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment.
- Keeping HVAC drip pans clean and flowing properly.
- Ventilating damp areas of the school such as janitor's closets, shower rooms, pools, and kitchens.
- Maintaining indoor humidity below 60% (ideally 30-50%) year round.
- Cleaning surfaces and floors frequently and thoroughly, to minimize moisture.
- Retaining a custodial crew to handle small mold remediation jobs and hiring trained professionals to remove damaged materials from the school.



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