Mold Growth

Mold is a fungus that grows in dark spaces with warm temperatures, high humidity, and poor air flow. Climate change can lead to increased mold growth because of increased moisture in our environment due to heavy rain, flooding, and hotter, more humid summer weather.

An increase in mold can lead to health problems. It can cause eye, nose, throat, skin, and respiratory irritation. It can also trigger asthma and allergy symptoms and reactions, and cause respiratory illness.

Who is at higher risk?

- People over age 65
- Children under age 5
- Pregnant people
- People with compromised immune systems
- People with asthma, allergies, and other respiratory conditions such as COPD

What can we do about it?

- Fix leaking pipes and other sources of moisture as soon as possible
- Clean and dry damp spots within 48 hours
- Keep indoor humidity between 30-50%
- Allow good air flow between furniture, ceiling, walls, and floors
- Keep heating, ventilation and air conditioning drip pans clean and working properly
- Assess and remove mold using these MA guidelines and U.S. EPA guidelines
- If you rent your home, use these Massachusetts guidelines to learn more about mold and your rights and responsibilities
- If you are a rental property owner, use these Massachusetts guidelines to learn about mold and your rights and responsibilities
- If you own your home, use this step-by-step guide on how to clean up mold