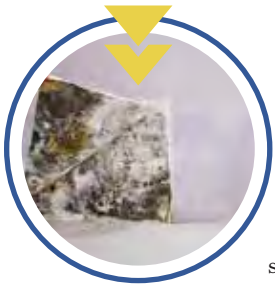


HOW TO PREVENT & CLEAN-UP MOLD IN YOUR HOMES & LISTINGS

▶▶ partner profile
Article by 24-7 Restoration



Even the most beautiful homes may have secrets growing beneath the surface. There are over 100,000 species of mold and fungi.

Toxigenic, allergenic, indoor and outdoor fungi can cause risks to health and damage to property. Mold thrives in damp, warm environments and can grow on almost any surface including drywall, carpets and furniture. Depending on your sensitivities, allergies and immune system, mold can have lasting effects on your wellbeing. The easiest, safest and most cost effective way to deal with mold is to prevent it before it grows. If you suspect a mold problem in your home or building, it's essential to take immediate action to prevent further damage and potential health concerns. To prevent mold growth, it's important to understand the causes of mold, risks of allowing it to spread and steps required to fully restore your property to a clean and safe standard.



Realtors, home buyers and home sellers alike should know the earliest indicators aren't the mold itself.

It's important to not only catch mold before it grows but understand why and how certain areas of the home are more susceptible. The first step in the mold restoration process is to assess the entire property. Rust, corrosion, odd odors and water damage are all factors that can lead to mold growth. Take care to check even the smallest details, such as the rubber gaskets that seal sinks. When preparing a home or property for a sale, buyers and sellers should look for proper water management systems and proper water drainage and at the integrity of non-living spaces like attics. Make sure you identify problems before you begin the real estate transaction; it can save you from the sometimes costly and extensive process of mold restoration.



Hidden costs can arise from a number of factors and are important to consider when preparing to buy or sell a home. For example, insurance coverage may not extend over a certain amount and the extent of the removal may include

gutting an entire room. If you are buying

or selling a home or property, be sure to hire a mold certified inspector as a proactive first step. It's important to identify any problems before you begin the real estate transaction. However, the search for a certified inspector can be overwhelming. Restoration specialists like 24-7 Restoration cover the entire process from finding a certified inspector to referring out for independent testing and conducting the restoration. "We recommend inspectors with an Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) because they are specifically trained on what to look for when it comes to mold identification," says 24-7 Restoration. After self or certified inspection, air testing can confirm if mold is present and give concerned clients a ballpark for what the cost will be. Inspections and testing are the key to making any real estate sale worry free from the risk of mold problems.



If evidence of prolonged water damage is visible or mold has already formed, it's time to call a professional mold mitigation company. Mold mitigation specialists use the most advanced methods for testing, treatment and refurbishment to eradicate mold and fortify structures so it won't return. High-end

technology such as infrared moisture meters and antimicrobial application to wood and other mold-prone materials are just a few of the tools needed to properly address and eliminate mold growth. The highest efficiency HEPA vacuums prevent cross-contamination and remove spores from the air. Mold spores can be toxigenic and re-contaminate the house if not completely scrubbed from the home. Some home and building owners are tempted to try this without an expert. Many times this ends up disturbing the mold and even increasing it. The full cost of mold removal ranges widely based on multiple factors of the home or building, the degree of mold contamination and reconstruction itself. Restoration can require tens of thousands of dollars to replace interior finishes that are damaged or need to be removed due to mold contamination. It's vital that all damaged areas are dealt with by professionals as soon as possible.



After the mold restoration process is complete, it's crucial to maintain upkeep on your property and prevent future mold growth. Fix any leaks or moisture

issues promptly. Use exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens to

remove excess moisture. Ventilate the property

to allow for air circulation. Keep all humidity levels in the property low with a high-quality dehumidifier. Clean and dry any water-damaged areas as soon as you see new signs of moisture. Use mold-resistant materials such as tile in rooms prone to moisture, think bathrooms and kitchens. Continue to check areas that are high-risk at least once a month. These post-restoration measures can ensure you won't have to deal with mold growth again.

Mold restoration is a complex process that requires the expertise of a professional mold remediation specialist. If you have a mold problem in your home or building, it's essential to take immediate action to prevent further damage and potential health risks. The mold restoration process involves assessing the situation, containing the mold, removing the mold, drying the area and repairing any damage. To prevent future mold growth, fix any moisture issues and ensure proper ventilation and humidity control. By taking these steps, you can protect your home or building from mold growth to keep yourself and your family safe. To save time, money and major home renovations, routinely check high-risk areas and reinforce water fixtures. An extra look in an attic or under a sink may save you thousands of dollars in the future.



You can reach 24-7 Restoration at (303) 485-1730 for a mold check, mold restoration or any of your other home restoration needs.