

Mold

What is mold, and where is it found?

The primary reason why Toxic Black Mold (*Stachybotrys*) becomes a major problem in buildings is the presence of moisture in the building where it should not be. A high level of humidity in the air is a common problem that allows water to condensate in places that should be dry.

There are several reasons why such situations can arise:

- Water damage to homes from flooding or water ingress
- Leaks in plumbing or pipes
- High humidity due to inadequate ventilation systems
- Ice damming on building roofs which allows water to seep under shingles and through roof sheathing
- Improperly functioning air conditioners
- Poor insulation or inadequate attic ventilation
- Crawl spaces with water pooling or elevated levels of moisture

The most common places to find the growth of mold not due to flooding are:

Washrooms, behind toilets and tubs, behind trim and under sinks where water can condensate, as well as under floors that aren't sealed properly

Bedrooms and common areas, window sills and around windows are the most common or areas where there are humidifiers running

Kitchens, around and under the sink as well as windows

What are the health risks?

- chronic fatigue or headaches
- shortness of breath
- fever and congestion
- irritation to the eyes, nose, and throat
- sneezing, rashes, and chronic coughing
- In severe cases of exposure or cases exacerbated by allergic reaction, symptoms can be extreme including nausea, vomiting, and bleeding in the lungs and nose

People at the Greatest Risk to Effects of Mold Exposure

- Infants and children
- The elderly
- Pregnant women
- People with asthma and allergies