

WATER AND MOLD

As our understanding of both acute and chronic health problems associated with indoor pollution increases, the importance of managing moisture infiltration into buildings becomes very critical. Water damaged building materials and furnishings, if not appropriately handled, can become significant sources of microbiological contamination in building environments leading to potential health problems for occupants ranging from simple irritation to allergic responses to hyper sensitivity diseases.

All buildings during their lifetime will have some form of water problems. Appropriate management of these water problems to reduce microbial growth will ensure the health of building occupants

Prompt flood response allows the area affected to be rapidly characterized and cleaned. Prompt cleaning of water minimizes property loss and reduces the possibility of occupant health effects from mold growth on wet building material.

If you discover a water leak of any size, immediately notify Engineering Dispatch at 386-2698. Inform them of the location and as many details of the leak as possible. Include information as to whether it is a drip, or actively flowing and if it pooling on the floor...the more information you can give will help ensure the proper resources are mobilized. The Safety Team can also be notified to assist in the proper resolution of leaks.

Mold is found almost everywhere and can grow on food, wood, carpet, paper, insulation, and most other organic materials if moisture and oxygen are present. When mold spores land on wet or damp areas indoors, they may begin to grow. In locations and on materials where excessive moisture accumulates, mold will generally grow if the moisture remains undiscovered and/or uncorrected. Controlling the moisture in the building can minimize mold growth. Heat, especially moist heat that results from steam leaks, may accelerate mold growth. As the mold grows, it digests whatever it is growing on and gradually destroys it. Even if mold cannot be seen, its presence may be noticed as a moldy or earthy smell.

If you discover or suspect mold in an area notify the Safety Team as soon as possible. Do not disturb any materials you suspect to be mold contaminated. The Safety Tem will evaluate the situation and provide proper direction for the remediation of any mold contamination while taking steps to protect our patients, visitors and staff from potential adverse health effects.

If you have further questions regarding the general policy regarding water infiltration and mold please contact the Safety Team.