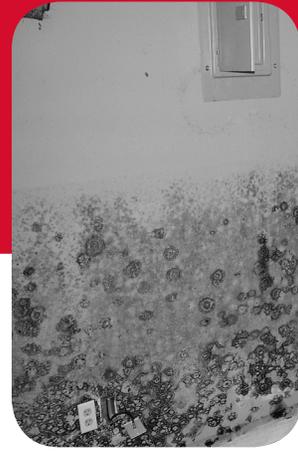


# STAY SAFE WITH SOCIETY



## MOLD

Mold is neither a plant nor an animal, but a single cell or multiple cell micro-organism that falls into the fungi classification. The cells work as decomposers of dead material, consuming the material it is growing on. Mold can appear to be black, blue or green in color.

### Ideal Conditions for Mold Growth

Outside mold prefers the shade — the ultraviolet sunlight deters the growth of mold. The main requirement for inside mold growth is moisture and it can occur in ceilings, floors, insulation, wood, drywall, clothes, carpet and more. Some causes of excessive moisture are condensation, humidity, cooking, washing, or water from a flood, leak or spill. Mold also grows in environments with a warm temperature. Mold growth can begin in less than 48 hours of excessive moisture.

### Is Mold Bad?

Given the right conditions, mold will create spores to reproduce — similar to how plants produce seeds. Molds release these small spores into the air where they spread to create new colonies. The spores are small enough that people can inhale them. Settling deep within the lungs, the development of respiratory problems or asthma is a possibility. Mold also produces allergens that can cause an allergic reaction when touched or inhaled. Not all molds are bad, and not everyone that comes into contact with mold will be affected. Some people are more sensitive to mold than others.

### Control Moisture to Prevent Mold

- Fix any known water leaks quickly and have a contractor inspect for unknown leaks.
- Limit condensation by keeping room temperatures warm and/or well insulated.
- Reduce humidity by opening windows, installing exhaust fans or using a dehumidifier.
- Any wet or damp area, materials or affected equipment should be cleaned within 48 hours to prevent mold growth.

### Mold Removal

Mold can be found everywhere and it is impossible to remove it completely, but some clean-up measures are necessary. An individual can clean/remove mold themselves in an area less than 10 square feet. While doing so, the appropriate personal protective equipment (goggles, gloves, respirator) should be worn. A professional contractor with previous experience should be hired for mold removal in larger areas. Find full details on mold removal from the United States Environmental Protection Agency at [www2.epa.gov/mold](http://www2.epa.gov/mold).

**WET AREAS, MATERIALS  
OR EQUIPMENT SHOULD  
BE CLEANED WITHIN  
48 HOURS TO PREVENT  
MOLD GROWTH.**

A Small Detail  
That Can Make a  
Big Difference.

Risk Control Services, [riskcontrol@societyinsurance.com](mailto:riskcontrol@societyinsurance.com)

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P. 888.576.2438 | [societyinsurance.com](http://societyinsurance.com)

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