

4 Signs You Need Mold Remediation

By basementguides.com

Being a homeowner has its perks and drawbacks. You get to live in the comfort of your own home. Along with that privilege comes a need for maintenance. Occasionally, houses wear down and experience problems such as leaks, cracks, and mold growth.

Mold growth is more common than you think. After all, it doesn't take much for mold to grow. Mold spores are everywhere, and they're incredibly tiny—making them invisible to the naked eye. Its microscopic size makes it impossible to prevent from entering our homes. For mold to grow, it only needs material to feed on and moisture. If you live in a humid area, this can be a big problem.

Mold can enter your home in any way. The most common way mold enters your home is through the air. They can be carried in the wind and come in through windows, doors, and ventilation systems. Another way mold enters your home is through people or pets. Mold spores can cling to clothing or pet fur. Dogs and cats are primary sources of mold because they like to spend time outside.

Should You Be Concerned?

Mold has a lot of adverse effects on homeowners and even pets. Other than damaging the home, it can also affect the health of animals and humans.

Any porous surfaces can become colonized by mold. Wooden objects can weaken because of the rotting caused by some molds as they break down the wood to extract the nutrients. If your home's framing, sheathing, or window frames are made of wood, they can become significantly damaged. Other materials such as fabrics, paper products, and furniture can be tough to remediate if infested with mold. A general rule of thumb is that any porous surfaces that have mold need to be removed and destroyed.

Homeowners aren't free from the effects of mold. The impact of mold on health can be quite fatal. Mold irritates the respiratory tract, which irritates the lung and throat. Having a weak respiratory system can further worsen the effects of mold. So, those who have existing medical conditions and have inhaled mold can have breathing problems, allergies, and aspergillosis.

Mold exposure to pets can also cause life-threatening problems. Like people, pets can experience respiratory issues and illnesses, but they can also experience pulmonary

hemorrhage, bleeding from the nose, allergic reactions, and even appetite loss. These issues can eventually end in death.

You could prevent mold from surviving in your home with a lot of disinfectant and sterilization, but that's not an ideal solution. Instead of focusing on preventing it from entering your home in the first place, focus on making mold growth unwelcome and minimizing the chances of mold spreading.

However, what happens if you come across a patch of mold in your home? Wiping it down with a cloth might seem like the right solution, but what happens if you can't see the mold?

Signs You Need Mold Remediation

Usually, you can see mold growth, and cleaning it is easy. The bad news is that sometimes you can't see mold growth, and you'll experience the effects of mold growth without realizing it. It's times like these that your home requires mold remediation. Below, we've listed four signs you need mold remediation.

1. Recent leaks

Have you had water enter your home recently? Although the presence of water inside your home doesn't automatically mean mold growth, it's safer to get a professional to inspect your home for any signs of mold. Mold spores are microscopic, and they love water. So, a recent, or even past, leak or flood inside your home is a good enough reason for you to contact a professional for mold inspection/remediation.

2. Discoloration

Mold can cause fabrics or objects to change color. The most obvious sign of mold is discoloration, which happens when the mold feeds on a surface. When they start to spread and grow, the mold can change objects to black, gray, white, brown, red, or even pastel colors. Some types of mold can appear fuzzy or dusty, while others look like granules of sand.

3. Musty Odor

Do you smell something strange in your home? Mold emits a musty type of odor when they start to spread. Although some types of mold can be odorless, they have a musty smell most of the time. You might not be able to see any mold, but if you smell something strange, there's a high probability that you need mold remediation in your home.

4. Health Effects

If you start to feel health symptoms such as allergies, headaches, fatigue, respiratory problems, or insomnia in a particular space, you might have a mold problem in your home. When you experience strange symptoms without a clear explanation in areas of your home, then it's time to call a professional to help you pinpoint where the source of mold is.

Mold Prevention Tips For Homeowners

The key to keeping mold growth at bay and hopefully keep them from returning is early detection and maintenance. Here are a few tips to follow to keep your home safe from mold growth.

1. Get Inspected

If you don't know where to begin, we recommend calling for a professional to inspect your home. Once you get a rough idea of your home's condition, you can do routine inspections throughout your home on your own. Regular inspections will save you time, money, and effort if you can detect early signs of mold.

2. Keep items dry

Mold flourishes in damp conditions. To prevent them from growing, make sure your furniture, clothes, and other items are dry. Also, remember to keep an eye out for any wet spots or leaks in your home. Closed areas with a lack of air circulation, such as basements or kitchen cabinets, will require extra attention.

3. Keep It Clean

When it comes to keeping mold growth at bay, regular cleaning is critical. Removing dust and debris through regular cleaning eliminates many of the food sources that allow mold colonies to get established on surfaces. Ongoing housekeeping also helps a homeowner identify leaks or mold growth while the problems are still manageable. If you come across a patch of mold, don't forget to discard the wipe or sponge you've used during its cleaning to prevent cross-contamination.

4. Repair Quick

Leaks and cracks are bound to happen in your home. When you spot a leak or a crack, don't leave it alone. Instead, repair it as soon as you can. Usually, pipes that aren't visible can be found in basements or crawl spaces.

Wrap Up

Mold growth can be a big problem, but you shouldn't wait for mold problems to get worse to fix it. Instead, be proactive and observe the signs so you can catch them early

on. By detecting mold growth early on, you can save yourself significant hassle and trouble in the long run. If you're unsure whether or not you need mold remediation services, we advise you to look out for the obvious signs of mold, such as a musty smell, discoloration of surfaces, presence of water, and health effects.

To keep mold growth at bay, take cautionary steps such as keeping your home clean and dry, routinely check your home for leaks or cracks, clean your home as often as you can, and repair any leaks or damages as soon as you find them.