

6 Essential Things to Know About Mold



1. Why Is Mold So Bad?

Mold in your home is a big deal.



Health

- According to the CDC, indoor exposure to mold is linked with:
 - Coughing
 - Nasal congestion
 - Itchy eyes or skin
 - Wheezing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Development of asthma in children
- Toxic black mold can be especially dangerous.
- It can be difficult to connect the dots between health problems and mold in your home.



Home

- Mold, dampness and dry rot can cause structural damage, warped boards and weakened walls.
- After mold damage, you may need to throw out porous materials like drywall or furniture.





2. How Do You Identify Mold?

Look for:



✓ Visible mold growth



✓ Musty smell



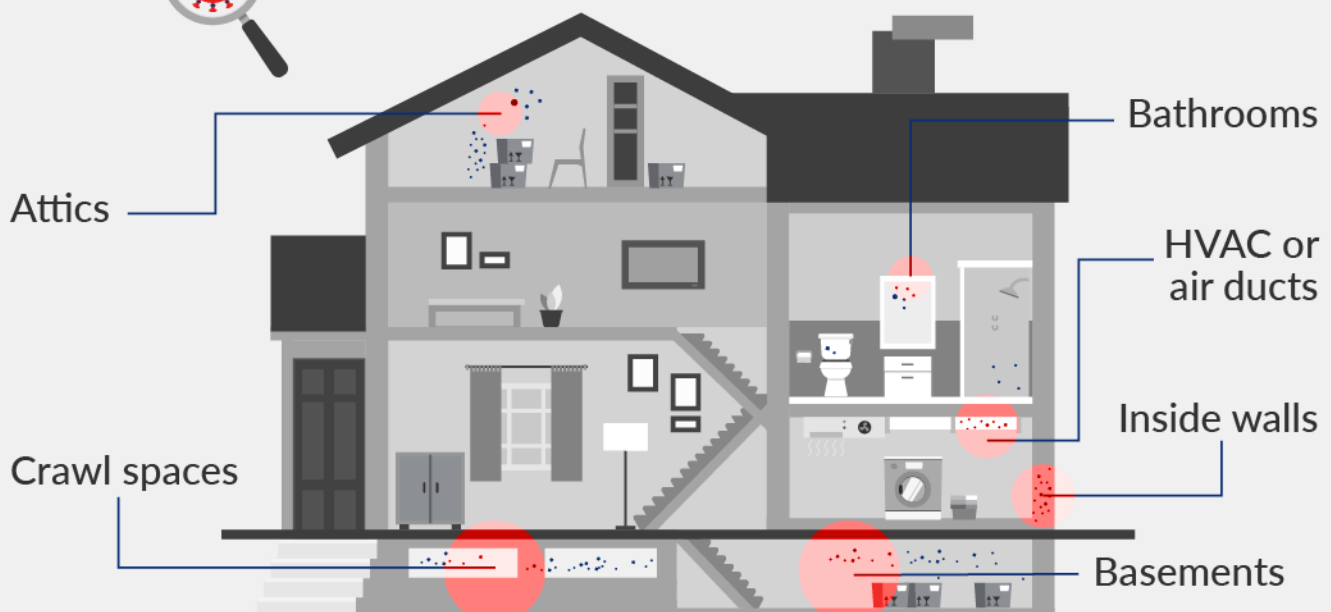
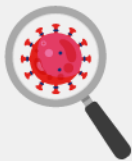
✓ Respiratory symptoms

You don't have to see mold for it to be present.

- It could be in your crawl space, basement, or inside your walls or attic.
- Mold toxins can travel via airborne spores, affecting air quality throughout your home.



3. Where In Your Home Is Mold Commonly Found?





4. Moisture and Mold Problems

- All types of mold require moisture to grow. Therefore, a mold problem starts as a moisture problem.
- Moisture can be caused by:
 - Humid or coastal climate
 - Flooding
 - Heavy rains and poor drainage
 - Plumbing problems or interior water leaks
 - Poor ventilation in bathrooms or kitchens



5. What Should You Do About the Mold?

- Talk to a pro about how to find out what type of mold you have and how to remove it:



— Mold cleaning



— Mold remediation



6. How Can You Stop Mold From Coming Back?



- If you clean up mold without fixing the underlying moisture problem, the mold will likely return.



- Keep mold from coming back by fixing the leaks, moisture, and humidity that caused it.



- Reduce moisture with basement waterproofing or crawl space encapsulation.



- Remove problem water sources by fixing a leaky roof, plumbing or drainage.



- Dehumidify to 30-50% and improve air circulation.



- Prepare for high rains or flooding by installing a sump pump.