

Issue: Mold

Description: Molds are naturally occurring microscopic fungi that can be found almost anywhere. Molds may grow on virtually any organic substance, as long as moisture and oxygen are present. They can be found in homes on wood, paper, carpet, foods, and insulation. When excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or unaddressed. It is impossible to eliminate all molds and mold spores in the indoor environment.

What is the risk to Wichita's:

Environment: Many molds are beneficial and are a part of the natural environment. Molds in the home, however, can cause damage to the interior of a structure.

Health: Symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory and possibly long-term problems. Inhaling or touching molds can cause hay fever-type symptoms such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rashes.

Economy: Mold exposure in the indoor environment may impact healthcare costs to individuals and families for diagnosis and treatment. Home and property owners may be faced with the cost of addressing renovation and water issues within a structure and the associated repair costs.



Solutions

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Individuals:

- Keep your home and office dry. Mold needs water to grow.
- Fix interior leaks from pipes, roof, landscaping and remove standing water immediately.
- Perform routine maintenance, cleaning, and repairs.
- Remove or replace moldy materials that cannot be cleaned.

Communities:

- Ensure that local schools prevent and detect, assess, and remediate mold.
- Support awareness and education efforts to make the community aware of mold issues and how to prevent its growth.

Policies:

- Local, state, and federal governments need to support mold education and remediation.