



What is mold?

- Mold is the name for tiny organisms called fungi.
- There are thousands of types of mold.
- Mold can be any color.



What causes mold to grow?

- Mold spreads by spores - tiny 'seeds' that float through the air.
- Mold can grow anywhere there is water or moisture, such as humidity, leaks, and condensation.

How can I prevent mold?

- Use exhaust fans or open windows in areas like bathrooms.
- Dry damp walls after showering.
- Fix leaks as soon as you find them.

Does my home have mold?

- It is common to find mold in kitchens, bathrooms, basements, and around windows.
- You might see it or smell a musty odor.
- There may be mold if there is a leak or water damage.
- Call **617-534-5965** if you think there is mold.



Can mold cause health problems?

Yes. Any type of mold can cause health problems. Asthma, allergies, and other health conditions may make you more sensitive to mold. Exposure to mold could cause:

- mild health problems like eye irritation, runny nose, coughing, and sore throat
- serious health problems like difficulty breathing and asthma attacks

What can I do about mold in my home?

- 1 **Find and stop the water.** Mold needs water to grow.
- 2 **Clean up the mold.**
 - Wear gloves, safety goggles, and a mask or respirator to protect yourself while cleaning.
 - DO NOT paint over mold. It will grow back.
 - To clean hard surfaces, use a disinfectant and let it dry completely.
 - Fabric items like clothing, rugs, carpet, and furniture can be professionally steam-cleaned or taken to a dry cleaner.
- 3 **If you can smell mold after cleaning, there is still mold.** Oftentimes, furniture, drywall, or carpets cannot be cleaned. You may have to throw out or remove the item if it is too badly damaged by water or mold.

