

MOLD

If you have moisture problems, Wynn L. White Consulting Engineers, Inc. conducts Moisture Management and Mold Prevention Workshops in both Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

These workshops are four hours in length and are educational to both the individual and the facility manager.

You will receive common sense, realistic, and practical approaches to eliminating mold and moisture problems. See our section on training where you can register for one of our workshops that will meet with your busy schedule.

Our workshops educate the public on how to solve this problem.

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Molds produce tiny spores to reproduce. Mold spores waft through the indoor and outdoor air continually. When mold spores get wet, they may begin growing and digesting whatever they are growing on in order to survive. There are molds that can eat wood, paper, carpet, and foods. When excessive moisture or water accumulates indoors, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or un-addressed. There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.

There are many ways to control moisture in your building:

- Fix leaks and seepage
- Put a plastic cover over soil in crawlspaces to prevent moisture from coming in from the ground. Be sure crawlspaces are dehumidified.
- Use exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens to remove moisture to the outside (not into the attic). Vent your clothes dryer to the outside.
- Turn off certain appliances if you notice moisture on windows and other surfaces.
- Use dehumidifiers and air conditioners, especially in hot, humid climates, to reduce moisture in the air, but make sure that the appliances themselves don't become sources of biological pollutants.
- Raise the temperature of cold surfaces where moisture condenses.
- Pay special attention to carpet on concrete floors.

Ten Things You Should Know About Mold

1. Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints.
2. There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.
3. If mold is a problem in your building, you must clean up the mold and eliminate sources of moisture.
4. Fix the source of the water problem or leak to prevent mold growth.
5. Reduce indoor humidity to decrease mold growth.
6. Clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.
7. Clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely.
8. Prevent condensation.
9. In areas where there is a perpetual moisture problem, do not install carpeting.
10. Molds can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any substance, providing moisture is present.