



## Public Health Department

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### Environmental Health

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## The Facts about Household Mold

### Mold Overview:

- ❖ Indoor mold growth is undesirable, unsanitary, and can make people sick.
- ❖ Extensive indoor mold contamination can lead to health problems, damage home furnishings, and damage structural elements of the home.
- ❖ It is recognized that the growth of mold within a building results from moisture accumulation on surfaces inside the building.
- ❖ It is also recognized that exposure to mold spores can result in irritation or adverse health effects in individuals who are sensitive to molds.
  - Molds produce health effects through inflammation, allergy, or infection.
  - Inquiries with regard to symptoms of illness or believe to have health problems due to mold should consult a physician or medical professional.
- ❖ **Bottom Line: If you can see or smell mold, you need to identify and eliminate excess moisture, and cleanup and remove the mold.**

### Mold Detection and Cleanup:

- ❖ There are currently no standards for mold. Although the state legislature has enacted law requiring the state to establish mold standards, there are currently no state laws or regulations that specifically address mold in dwellings.
- ❖ Private home and apartment owners will generally need to hire a contractor to address mold issues, because insurance companies and public agencies (including County departments) seldom provide this service.
  - However, issues pertaining to moisture accumulation in the building due to building construction deficiencies may be addressed through state building codes (i.e. local building departments or housing authorities).
  - The inquirer may also retain the services of a licensed contractor, private home inspector, or industrial hygienist to obtain a professional opinion and any further guidance.
- ❖ **Bottom Line: Mold detection and cleanup is usually considered a housekeeping task that is the responsibility of a homeowner or landlord.**



**Additional Information and Resources:**

CDPH has released a statement on building dampness, mold, and health that summarizes the evidence-based health risks from indoor dampness and mold.

[http://www.cal-iaq.org/phocadownload/statement\\_on\\_building\\_dampness\\_mold\\_and%20health2011.pdf](http://www.cal-iaq.org/phocadownload/statement_on_building_dampness_mold_and%20health2011.pdf)

CDPH has also released an informational guide concerning mold in the home.

[http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth/environmental/MIMH\\_2012-07-05.pdf](http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth/environmental/MIMH_2012-07-05.pdf)

Butte County Environmental Health has a great resource on mold on its website.

<http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth/environmental/environmental.html>

CDPH Indoor Air Quality Program mold publications can be found here.

<http://www.cal-iaq.org/component/phocadownload/category/3-mold-publications>