Indoor Air Quality Test for Mold

What is Mold?

Molds are naturally occurring forms of fungi found year round both indoors and outdoors. Outdoors, molds live in the soil, on plants, and on dead or decaying matter. Another common term for mold is mildew, even though mold and mildew are actually different kinds of fungus.

Mold growth is encouraged by warm and humid conditions, although it can grow during cold weather. There are thousands of species of mold, and they can be any color. Many times, mold can be detected by a musty odor. Most fungi, including molds, produce microscopic cells called “spores” that spread easily through the air. Live spores act like seeds, forming new mold growths (colonies) with the right conditions.

Mold spores can live forever and so can mold damage if not addressed. If they dry out, the spores become dormant but will be revitalized when they come in contact with moisture. Even high levels of humidity or condensation can trigger mold spores and cause renewed growth.

What Does Mold Need to Grow?

- **Moisture:** The most critical factor; mold can grow with just condensation, leaks, or high humidity.
- **Food**: Nearly any organic material, including drywall paper, wood, textiles, soil, and even dust on inorganic surfaces.
- **Oxygen:** Molds need oxygen to survive and grow, which is why controlling air is important.
- **Temperature:** Most molds prefer temperatures above freezing, with ideal growth between 77°F and 86°F.

There is always some mold around. Molds have been on the Earth for millions of years. Mold can get in your home through open doors, windows, vents, and heating and air conditioning systems. Mold in the air outside can be brought indoors on clothing, shoes, bags, and even pets.

Mold will grow where there is moisture, such as around leaks in roofs, windows, or

WHAT TO KNOW

- Mold can look like spots of many different colors, and it can smell musty. If you see or smell mold, you should remove it.
- If mold is growing in your home, you need to clean up the mold *and* fix the moisture problem.

pipes, or where there has been a flood. Mold grows on paper, cardboard, ceiling tiles, and wood. Mold can also grow in dust, paints, wallpaper, insulation, drywall, carpet, fabric, and upholstery.

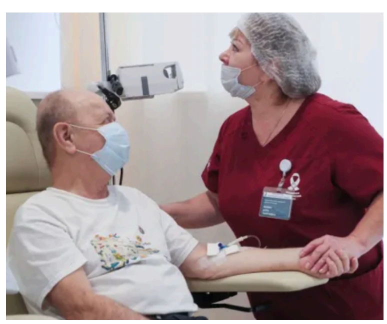
This means mold can grow just about anywhere and in any condition! Keeping our environment suitably dry is how mold can be kept from growing and spreading. But when we don't know if there are elevated levels of mold in our homes, it is important to test for it to be sure we aren't living in a home with hidden high mold levels.

The Health Risks For Mold, Fungus, Mildew

Mold affects people primarily through the spores and fragments that become airborne and are inhaled. These tiny particles can irritate the respiratory system, eyes, skin, and sinuses, especially in people with allergies, asthma, or weakened immune systems.

Children

Immunocompromised



Elderly

Some species of mold also produce chemicals called mycotoxins that can contribute to inflammation, headaches, fatigue, and cognitive or neurological symptoms when exposure is prolonged in a damp indoor environment.

The severity of symptoms varies widely from person to person — while some individuals notice little effect, others may experience significant reactions — which is why identifying and correcting indoor mold growth is important for protecting overall indoor air quality and occupant health.

Understanding Indoor Air Quality Testing

What It Measures — and What It Does Not When people hear "mold test," they often imagine it tells them whether a home is *safe or unsafe*.
In reality, **mold air testing is a comparison tool** — not a yes-or-no safety test. Air testing answers one important question:

"Is the air inside this home different from the air outside?"

Because mold spores are everywhere in nature, the goal is not to find zero mold — the goal is to determine whether a building has an indoor mold amplification problem.

What Air Testing Actually Measures

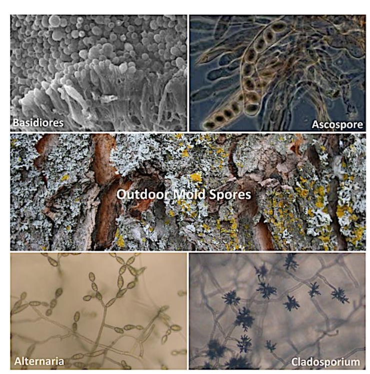
A professional mold air test measures:

- The number of mold spores
- The types of mold spores (mycotoxin-producing or not)
- Indoor air vs outdoor air

The outdoor sample acts as the control — the baseline for what "normal" looks like that day. Indoor samples are compared to that baseline.

This allows us to identify:

- Elevated spore levels
- Abnormal species indoors
- Signs of hidden moisture or growth



Two to three air samples are taken using a small air pump that pulls the environment's air across a canister at a calibrated flow to collect any particles in the air.

These collected samples are shipped overnight to a Nationally certified lab where the particulates are identified and counted, by humans, under a microscope. An electronic report is then generated and emailed.

Why Results Are About Patterns, Not Panic

A professional interpretation looks for; Indoor vs outdoor ratios, abnormal species inside, elevated water-damage molds, and consistency between rooms, among other things. For example:

- A basement with 5× the spores of outside suggests moisture
- A bedroom with outdoor-type mold only is usually normal
- The presence of certain species indoors can indicate hidden growth

This is how trained inspectors identify real building issues — not just lab numbers.

The Bottom Line for Homebuyers

Mold air testing is designed to:
✔ Detect hidden moisture problems
✔ Confirm whether a home is behaving normally
✔ Help guide further inspection or remediation

"Mold testing is not meant to create fear,
It is meant to provide data for smart decisions.
A properly performed air test gives you clarity, not panic."

Please call or text me and I'll get you set up with a mold air test. Stop guessing so you can have the information you need about how to move forward in your home.

Please save our contact, effortlessly,
by scanning the QR code

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