

The Facts



OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

On Keeping Your Space Free of Mold & Mildew

Mold and mildew thrive in warm and humid environments and can be found everywhere outside as well as inside. There are thousands of species of mold and all different requirements for growth including, temperature, water (moisture and humidity) and a food source. There are several ways to prevent mold and mildew in your office, lab, or residence hall.

Preventing Mold Growth

- Keep your space clean.
- If there is a spill, clean it up immediately and make sure the area is dried completely.
- If materials get damp or water damaged, (papers, towels, carpeting upholstery) discard or dry out completely.
- Dispose of garbage promptly and properly, especially food containers and food waste.
- Check for mold/dust accumulation around vents.
- Try to keep your space clutter free. Clutter traps and holds dust.
- Do not block air vents or grilles.
- Store food properly in sealed containers or bags.
- Clean inside and outside of min-fridges or food storage areas routinely.
- Avoid storing items in cardboard boxes. Better management practice would be to store in securely closed plastic or metal containers.
- Keep surfaces clean and wipe down surfaces on a routine basis using wipes with quaternary ammonium products such as Clorox wipes.
- Communicate any water leaks to Facilities immediately to reduce the chance of mold growth.

For further information, please visit

[You Can Control Mold | CDC](#)

Maintain Good Ventilation

- During the summer months:
Do not adjust thermostats below 72 degrees. Refrain from opening windows and insure they are closed and sealed.
- DO NOT turn the fan off in your unit but run fan at the lowest speed possible.
- DO NOT prop open exterior doors.
- Floor mounted fan coil units draw air in the bottom and discharge from the top so please insure nothing impedes this path

How to Clean Up Mold & Mildew

- Cleaning up small amounts of mold and mildew such as what can be found on vents, chairs, furniture, spots on carpet can be done quickly by the occupant.
- Use a wet clean up method (e.g., damp cloth with quaternary ammonium products such as Clorox wipes.
- Do not use a cloth dampened only with water.
- Throw wipes and clean-up materials in trash and remove trash from room.
- For large water impacted areas or leaks, contact Facilities.



Examples of Clorox wipes to clean your area when you are experiencing mold & mildew.