

# 6 Essential Things to Know About Mold



## 1. Why Is Mold So Bad?

Mold in your home is a big deal.



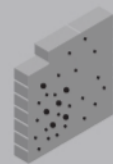
### Health

- According to the CDC, indoor exposure to mold is linked with:
  - Coughing
  - Nasal congestion
  - Itchy eyes or skin
  - Wheezing
  - Shortness of breath
  - Development of asthma in children
- Toxic black mold can be especially dangerous.
- It can be difficult to connect the dots between health problems and mold in your home.



### Home

- Mold, dampness and dry rot can cause structural damage, warped boards and weakened walls.
- After mold damage, you may need to throw out porous materials like drywall or furniture.



# 6 Essential Things to Know About Mold



## 2. How Do You Identify Mold?

Look for:



✓ Visible mold growth



✓ Musty smell



✓ Respiratory symptoms

**You don't have to see mold for it to be present.**

- It could be in your crawl space, basement, or inside your walls or attic.
- Mold toxins can travel via airborne spores, affecting air quality throughout your home.



## 3. Where In Your Home Is Mold Commonly Found?





## 4. Moisture and Mold Problems

- All types of mold require moisture to grow. Therefore, a mold problem starts as a moisture problem.
- Moisture can be caused by:
  - Humid or coastal climate
  - Flooding
  - Heavy rains and poor drainage
  - Plumbing problems or interior water leaks
  - Poor ventilation in bathrooms or kitchens



## 5. What Should You Do About the Mold?

- Talk to a pro about how to find out what type of mold you have and how to remove it:



— Mold cleaning



— Mold remediation



## 6. How Can You Stop Mold From Coming Back?



- If you clean up mold without fixing the underlying moisture problem, the mold will likely return.



- Keep mold from coming back by fixing the leaks, moisture, and humidity that caused it.



- Reduce moisture with basement waterproofing or crawl space encapsulation.



- Remove problem water sources by fixing a leaky roof, plumbing or drainage.



- Dehumidify to 30-50% and improve air circulation.



- Prepare for high rains or flooding by installing a sump pump.