

MOLD GUIDELINES

The following guidelines for addressing minor mold growth inside Kent State University (KSU) buildings are based upon guidelines contained within the EPA Guide to *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*:

- Mold cannot exist inside buildings without the presence of moisture. Any attempt to deal with mold in buildings without dealing with the underlying moisture problem will only allow mold growth to return over and over again.
- Indoor mold can produce adverse health effects in some individuals. This is true, even if the mold is dead or dormant. This is why the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that indoor mold be removed. Treating it with a chemical biocide (e.g., KILZ, Foster's 40-80 or bleach) is strongly discouraged.
- Mold can be visible or hidden. Visible mold can present a greater potential risk of adverse health effects in some individuals. This is only because hidden mold is enclosed in spaces which also limit the escape of spores and toxins into occupied spaces.
- As a result, hidden mold is potentially less troublesome until it becomes necessary to open walls, ceilings or other enclosed spaces for other reasons. This is why care must be used when making openings in walls, ceilings or other enclosed spaces. This is especially true if the underlying reason for making an opening in a wall, ceiling or other cavity is a moisture problem (e.g., roof or pipe leak). In these cases, we should be prepared to immediately begin mold clean-up or remediation activities.
- Whether visible or hidden, the following guidelines should be used in cleaning up or remediating active mold growth:

EMPLOYEE GUIDELINES FOR MINOR MOLD CLEAN-UP

- KSU employees should only attempt to clean mold when the area of active mold growth is less than ten square feet (10 ft²). If the area of active mold growth is larger, a qualified mold remediation contractor should be used. The Occupational Health and Safety office should be contacted at (330) 672-9565 or (330) 672-1950 during normal office hours and at (330) 672-2345 during all other times to recommend a qualified mold remediation contractor.
- KSU employees engaged in mold clean-up or remediation activities should use the following minimum personal protective equipment:
 - Safety glasses or goggles for eye protection;
 - Single-use or disposable non-latex gloves for skin protection; and
 - A respirator equipped with particulate filters. At a minimum, this would be an N-95 single-use or disposable respirator.

Although not required, Tyvek[®] coveralls can be used to protect clothing.

- Active mold growth can be removed by:
 - Vacuuming with a high efficiency particulate (HEPA) vacuum; and
 - Washing the surface with ordinary soap and water. After the surface is cleaned, it should be thoroughly dried to prevent additional mold growth. If the surface will dry naturally in 24 hours or less, no additional mechanical drying (i.e., fans or dehumidifiers) should be required. After the surface is clean and dry, it can be painted. No special paint type is required.

Although it may be a good idea to isolate the area being cleaned, it is not necessary as there will be no increased risk to building occupants during cleaning.

- For larger projects, remediation contractors may have to perform a partial demolition of the space by removing porous building materials (e.g., drywall, plywood and oriented strand board). In these cases, partial or full containment structures will be erected. Unless they are directly involved in overseeing the contractor's work, KSU personnel should stay out of these spaces while remediation activities are in process.



N-95 Respirator

As always - when in doubt, stop and ask your immediate supervisor.