

## Why is mold growing?

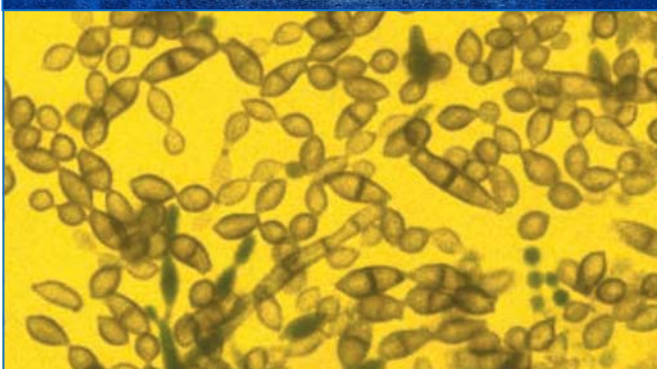
Molds are part of the natural environment. Outdoors, molds play a part in nature by breaking down dead organic matter such as fallen leaves and dead trees, but indoors, mold growth should be avoided. Molds reproduce by means of tiny spores; the spores are invisible to the naked eye and float through outdoor and indoor air. Mold may begin growing indoors when mold spores land on surfaces that are wet. There are many types of mold, and none of them will grow without water or moisture.

## Moisture and Mold Prevention and Control Tips

### Moisture Control is the Key to Mold Control

- When water leaks or spills occur indoors - **act quickly**. If wet or damp materials or areas are dried 24-48 hours after a leak or spill happens, in most cases mold will not grow.
- Clean and repair roof gutters regularly.
- Make sure the ground slopes away from the building foundation, so that water does not enter or collect around the foundation.
- Keep air conditioning drip pans clean and the drain lines unobstructed and flowing properly.
- Keep indoor humidity low. If possible, keep indoor humidity below 60 percent (ideally between 30 and 50 percent) relative humidity. Relative humidity can be measured with a moisture or humidity meter, a small, inexpensive (\$10-\$50) instrument available at many hardware stores.
- If you see condensation or moisture collecting on windows, walls or pipes **act quickly** to dry the wet surface and reduce the moisture/water source. Condensation can be a sign of high humidity.

Magnified Mold Spores



Molds gradually destroy the things they grow on. You can prevent damage to your building and furnishings, save money, and avoid potential health problems by controlling moisture and eliminating mold growth.

Condensation on the inside of a windowpane.



<https://www.epa.gov/mold/brief-guide-mold-moisture-and-your-home>



# Tool Box Talk | Moisture Management

This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Trainer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Trainer's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Participants:

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