



Mould: Why and How?

You're not alone

...it's everywhere!

As the title states, yes... mould (mold) is found everywhere! It is in the air we breathe and grows on virtually any surface. There are thousands of species of mould throughout Canada.

Broadly speaking, mould grows when a substance comes in contact with water which then can spread throughout a home or office quite quickly. Environments where moulds thrive, are extremely unhygienic and downright dangerous for humans. **Pay serious heed to signs of mould.**

- Moulds are capable of entering your home or building through windows, air conditioning systems and vents. Shoes, clothing, bags and even pets can bring in mould from outside.
- The earliest signs of mould can be inferred through cracked or peeling paint on your walls. Invisible mould growth may grow behind walls within the gaps of moist air.
- Do not underestimate mould as even a small amount of visible mould buildup on a wall could mean that there is a rather large colony on the other side. This is not uncommon in bathrooms.

Exposure & Health Problems

Prolonged exposure to high levels of toxic airborne mould spores, such as *Aspergillus* or *Stachybotrys chartarum* ("black mould"), can cause chronic or even life-threatening illnesses such as:

- Respiratory problems
- Skin inflammation
- Hemorrhage

- Irritation of the mucous membranes
- Damage to internal organs
- Mental impairment
- Tiredness
- Nausea
- Immune system suppression

Basement Flooding – a Common Occurrence

Flooding, typically basement flooding, can cause **mould growth very quickly, within 24-48 hours if the right conditions are met** (temperature, moisture, materials). It is very important to ensure you have the problem rectified quickly. Your insurance company will often guide you through this. Fisher is often invited to inspect such situations. For this purpose, whether private or through an insurance company, we offer an **emergency response**.

Collection & Testing

Unless you are a trained professional, it is strongly advised not to gather mould samples and/or try to assess the situation yourself. This can be dangerous. Fisher Laboratories will arrange to have a trained technician come to your location to collect samples for lab analysis.

Read more about **hazardous materials like asbestos or health and safety as it pertains to properties**. You'll find us at: fishereng.com.