



Do Your Work with Pride: Put Safety in Every Stride

MOLD OSHA Guidelines

Recently, there have been numerous reports of increased mold activity in multiple buildings. Facilities personnel have been involved in the clean-up process. To help guide you when making decisions on how to clean-up and how to protect yourself, provided below is the OSHA Mold Guidelines for the Workplace. It is important to understand that we do not use N95 masks, we use 1/2 mask or full mask respirators when N95 masks are indicated. If you have questions do not hesitate to contact the Safety Training Office. In addition, you can go on-line to www.osha.gov and type in search A Brief Guide to Mold in the Workplace.

Mold Remediation Guidelines

This section presents remediation guidelines for building materials that have or are likely to have mold growth. The guidelines are designed to protect the health of cleanup personnel and other workers during remediation. These guidelines are based on the size of the area impacted by mold contamination. Please note that these are guidelines; some professionals may prefer other remediation methods, and certain circumstances may require different approaches or variations on the approaches described below. If possible, remediation activities should be scheduled during off-hours when building occupants are less likely to be affected.

Although the level of personal protection suggested in these guidelines is based on the total surface area contaminated and the potential for remediator or occupant exposure, professional judgment always should play a part in remediation decisions. These remediation guidelines are based on the size of the affected area to make it easier for remediators to select appropriate techniques, not on the basis of research showing there is a specific method appropriate at a certain number of square feet. The guidelines have been designed to help construct a remediation plan. The remediation manager should rely on professional judgment and experience to adapt the guidelines to particular situations. When in doubt, caution is advised. Consult an experienced mold remediator for more information.

Level I: Small Isolated Areas (10 sq. ft or less) - e.g., ceiling tiles, small areas on walls.

Level II: Mid-Sized Isolated Areas (10-30 sq. ft.) – e.g., individual wallboard panels.

- Remediation can be conducted by the regular building maintenance staff as long as they are trained on proper clean-up methods, personal protection, and potential health hazards. This training can be performed as part of a program to comply with the requirements of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard ([29 CFR 1910.1200](http://www.cfr.gov)).
- Respiratory protection (e.g., N-95 disposable respirator) is recommended. Respirators must be used in accordance with the OSHA respiratory protection standard ([29 CFR 1910.134](http://www.cfr.gov)). Gloves and eye protection should be worn.
- The work area should be unoccupied. Removing people from spaces adjacent to the work area is not necessary, but is recommended for infants (less than 12 months old), persons recovering from recent surgery, immune-suppressed people, or people with chronic inflammatory lung diseases (e.g., asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and severe allergies).
- Containment of the work area is not necessary. Dust suppression methods, such as misting (not soaking) surfaces prior to remediation, are recommended.
- Contaminated materials that cannot be cleaned should be removed from the building in a sealed impermeable plastic bag. These materials may be disposed of as ordinary waste.
- The work area and areas used by remediation workers for egress should be cleaned with a damp cloth or mop and a detergent solution.
- All areas should be left dry and visibly free from contamination and debris.

Level III: Large Isolated Areas (30 –100 square feet) – e.g., several wallboard panels.

Industrial hygienists or other environmental health and safety professionals with experience performing microbial investigations and/or mold remediation should be consulted prior to remediation activities to provide oversight for the project.

The following procedures may be implemented depending upon the severity of the contamination:

- It is recommended that personnel be trained in the handling of hazardous materials and equipped with respiratory protection (e.g., N-95 disposable respirator). Respirators must be used in accordance with the OSHA respiratory protection standard ([29 CFR 1910.134](#)). Gloves and eye protection should be worn.
- Surfaces in the work area and areas directly adjacent that could become decontaminated should be covered with a secured plastic sheet(s) before remediation to contain dust/ debris and prevent further contamination.
- Seal ventilation ducts/grills in the work area and areas directly adjacent with plastic sheeting.
- The work area and areas directly adjacent should be unoccupied. Removing people from spaces near the work area is recommended for infants, persons having undergone recent surgery, immunosuppressed people, or people with chronic inflammatory lung diseases. (e.g., asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and severe allergies).
- Dust suppression methods, such as misting (**not soaking**) surfaces prior to mediation, are recommended.
- Contaminated materials that cannot be cleaned should be removed from the building in sealed impermeable plastic bags. These materials may be disposed of as ordinary waste.
- The work area and surrounding areas should be HEPA vacuumed and cleaned with a damp cloth or mop and a detergent solution.
- All areas should be left dry and visibly free from contamination and debris.

Note: If abatement procedures are expected to generate a lot of dust (e.g., abrasive cleaning of contaminated surfaces, demolition of plaster walls) or the visible concentration of the mold is heavy (blanket coverage as opposed to patchy), it is recommended that the remediation procedures for Level IV be followed.

Level IV: Extensive Contamination (greater than 100 contiguous square feet in an area).

Industrial hygienists or other environmental health and safety professionals with experience performing microbial investigations and/or mold remediation should be consulted prior to remediation activities to provide oversight for the project.

The following procedures may be implemented depending upon the severity of the contamination:

Personnel trained in the handling of hazardous materials and equipped with:

- Full face piece respirators with HEPA cartridges;
- Disposable protective clothing covering entire body including both head and shoes; and
- Gloves.

Containment of the affected area:

- Complete isolation of work area from occupied spaces using plastic sheeting sealed with duct tape (including ventilation ducts/grills, fixtures, and other openings);
- The use of an exhaust fan with a HEPA filter to generate negative pressurization; and
- Airlocks and decontamination room.
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- If contaminant practices effectively prevent mold from migrating from affected areas, it may not be necessary to remove people from surrounding work areas. However, removal is still recommended for infants, persons having undergone recent surgery, immune-suppressed people, or people with chronic inflammatory lung diseases. (e.g., asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and severe allergies).
- Contaminated materials that cannot be cleaned should be removed from the building in sealed impermeable plastic bags. The outside of the bags should be cleaned with a damp cloth and a detergent solution or HEPA vacuumed in the decontamination chamber prior to their transport to uncontaminated areas of the building. These materials may be disposed of as ordinary waste.
- The contained area and decontamination room should be HEPA vacuumed and cleaned with a damp cloth or mopped with a detergent solution and be visibly clean prior to the removal of isolation barriers.

Safety Training Dates August 2010

August 10
SFA/CPR

August 18th Van
Training

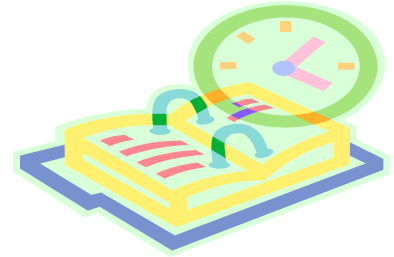
4:00 p.m. in
Dykstra Room 106.

August 11th
Sprains & Strains

Reminder: New
Hire Orientation
is scheduled

August 13th
Sprains & Strains

every Tuesday
from 8:00 a.m. to



And They Say-Safety Is Common Sense (SAFTENG.net)



Barn Swallows-A Protected Species

It has been reported to the Safety Office that the Barn Swallow nests located at Dykstra Hall are being knocked down. The Barn Swallow is not an endangered species but is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This makes it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take

any migratory bird. It is illegal



to intentionally damage or

destroy the nest, eggs, or young of a swallow while it is being built or used. The Act allows fines or prison sentences for every bird, egg or nest destroyed. There are legal methods of control. If you are experiencing problems contact the Health and Safety Office.