



(a) Black mold; (b) greenish mold

eSafetyLine

Where to Look for Mold

Black Mold Month

The most important step in mold prevention is a visual inspection. By checking that a building's exterior surfaces and drainage systems are in good working order can help to stop mold growth before it starts. By finding a leak early a mold problem can be minimized and much easier to completely clean and remove from the site. But what if you're too late; that the jobsite you're on already may have a mold problem, where do you look to find the source so that it can be dealt with. Any place that is dark, and where moisture can accumulate, is the best spot to start to look for mold.

WATER-DAMAGED AREAS

Any area where flooding, leaks, or other types of water damage have occurred are prime candidates for toxic black mold growth. This category pretty much sums up all the others but they are worth pointing out.

BENEATH DRYWALL

As a source of food, mold needs cellulose (plant material) which drywall is made of. Any time drywall gets wet it is a prime spot for molds to grow and thrive. If black mold does grow into the drywall, it should be replaced (after the mold is cleaned up and the source of excessive moisture is removed). If walls at a jobsite show signs of mold (cracked or peeling paint, bulging behind the paint, discoloration of walls), then that section of drywall needs to be torn out and inspected. If the drywall does have mold then the mold must be cleaned up and the source of water to fixed to stop any further mold growth.

BEHIND FLOOR BASEBOARDS

The space between the wall and the baseboards serves as a great growing ground for mold. It is a fairly sealed off space so it traps moisture. Also, a lot of dirt ends up there, providing the mold colonies with plenty of nutrients to thrive on as well as darkness and moisture.

When looking for mold in a basement or crawlspace, just look for any evidence of dampness. Be especially aware of any black mold growth that might be taking place in wooden building materials, since this is the best path for mold to take to other parts of the home. It can also lead to the weakening of beams and other bearing walls that are crucial in the stability of the structure.

Discussion Questions

What two things are needed for black mold to grow?

Why is drywall such a common place for black mold to grow?

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

___/___/___
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

___/___/___
Date