



Prevalence of Mold

There are over 100,000 different types of mold that grow indoors and outdoors. But not all types of mold are harmful.

WHERE IT GROWS

Mold is common in buildings and homes, especially in areas with moisture, for example, near leaks in roofs, pipes, windows, or flooded areas. Mold also grows well on cellulose products like paper, cardboard, ceiling tiles, and wood. It is also often found in dust, paints, wallpapers, insulation, drywall, carpet, fabric, and upholstery.

THE MOST COMMON TYPES

The most common household toxic molds are cladosporium, penicillium, and aspergillus.

THE PREVALENCE

- Many published studies estimate the average prevalence of dampness/mold in U.S. residential buildings to be 47%.
- There is a lack of recent national data on mold prevalence in U.S. schools and other non-residential buildings. The 1995 U.S. General Accounting Office survey indicated 40% of schools had a plumbing problem and 27% had roofing problems that could lead to interior or exterior flooding or leakage.
- At least 45 million buildings in the U.S. have unhealthy levels of mold.

References

- (1) <https://irp.cdn-website.com/c4e267ab/files/uploaded/NIOSH-Dampness-and-Mold-Assessment-Tool-DMAT-Documentation-and-Data-Analysis-of-Dampness-and-Mold-Related-Damage-in-Buildings-and-Its-Application-2022.pdf>
- (2) <https://www.cdc.gov/mold/faqs.htm>