



# Mold Remediation: Testing

**There are three main types of mold testing:**

- 1. Air sampling** – This is the most common and reliable form of testing. Sampling of indoor and outdoor air is conducted and levels of mold spores in both are compared. This is the best way to identify non-visible mold.
- 2. Surface testing** – This involves taking mold samples from a surface. This can be done by:
  - Swab samples – A cotton swab-like object is rubbed against a surface suspected to have mold and sent to a testing lab. The swab may also be rubbed against a petri dish where a culture was grown.
  - Tape samples – A piece of clear tape is pressed against the surface suspected to have mold and removed. It is then tested.
  - Bulk samples – This involves removing the area suspected to have mold, like a piece of furniture or drywall, so it can be tested.
- 3. Dust sampling** – This collects settled dust via a dust cloth or vacuum canister and is tested. The dust cloth provides more freedom to test places like air ducts and ceiling fans. However, a vacuum canister is less likely to be subject to human error.