

Keep Mold and Mildew in Check!

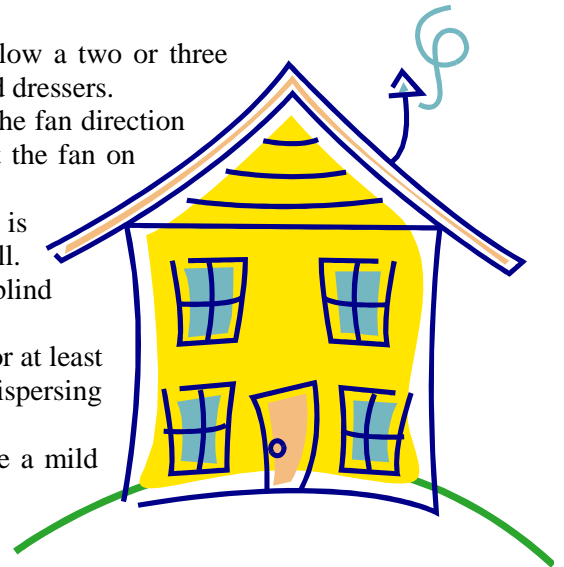
by Dan Haase, Associate Director of Facilities

Mold has been the news in recent years. Here is some information to help put mold concerns in perspective and some useful tips on dealing with mold and mildew in your environment.

Mold has been around forever and is even referenced in the Bible (Leviticus). Spores are everywhere inside and outside, and can lay dormant for years. Mold requires three things in order to flourish--a moisture source, a food source, and a warm, reasonably dark environment with low airflow. The absence of any of these retards or prevents mold growth.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ❖ Avoid placing large furniture up against outside walls. If possible, allow a two or three inch gap—larger, if possible--or choose another wall for headboards and dressers.
- ❖ In rooms with ceiling fans, keep air circulating year-round. In winter, the fan direction can be reversed by the switch on the motor housing, and you can put the fan on low.
- ❖ When your blinds are closed, turn them so the edge closest to you is pointed up, and the bottom of the blind is not resting on the window sill. This will still allow privacy, but will allow air to circulate between the blind and the window, rather than trapping cold, condensing air and moisture.
- ❖ Be sure you keep the bathroom exhaust fan running and the door shut for at least 15 minutes after a shower to exhaust the moist, humid air, rather than dispersing throughout your apartment.
- ❖ If you should discover mold at some point in your living quarters, use a mild bleach solution to clean it off walls and floors. (Wear rubber gloves).
- ❖ Mold on curtains, clothing, etc should be dealt with by cleaning the material per manufacturer's cleaning instructions.



WHAT ABOUT ALLERGIES?

- ❖ The Texas climate is not always friendly to those who are allergy-prone. Dust, pollen, and pollution are just some of the irritants Texans are exposed to, in addition to mold.
- ❖ Indoor pollutants are often worse than those in the environment. Cleaning chemicals, perfumes, scented candles, dust mites and their feces, and many other airborne particulates can cause us problems in our homes.
- ❖ No agreed-upon standards exist for acceptable levels of exposure to mold and mold spores for healthy people.

Maintenance Requests

817-923-1921, ext. 2290

- Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Maintenance Repairs
- Pest Control and Rodent Control
- There is someone ready to answer your call

WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE?

All of us need to wait for the scientific evidence to catch up with the hype we have experienced in recent years. You can research the subject of mold yourself, using unbiased sources such as the Centers for Disease Control, and the Environmental Protection Agency. If you use other Internet resources, be aware that the authors of some articles may have an agenda. Be discerning, informed, and skeptical of information you can't confirm from a reliable source.

In partnership with you, we will do the best we can to address your concerns.