

Mold

Developed by

Osa Mede Occupational Health &
Safety Manager and Chemical
Hygiene Officer

Samantha N. Maldonado
Occupation Health and Safety
Intern

Hartwick College commitment to health and safety

The safety, health, and well-being of every resident and campus staff members is a matter of utmost priority for the environmental, occupational health and safety department





How Does Mold Exposure Occur?

- ✓ Mold is a naturally occurring organism that produces seed-like spores that are small enough to travel through the air.
- ✓ We are exposed to mold daily in the air we breathe.
- ✓ Exposure occurs through breathing, ingestion, and/or skin contact.
- ✓ The level of airborne molds increase when moisture problems arise in buildings creating mold growth on building materials

Requirements for Mold Growth

Moisture or high relative humidity (>60%)

Temperature between 40 – 100 °F

Organic matter (cellulose/carbohydrate)

Source of spores

Health Effects Associated with Mold Exposure

- ✓ The most common health effect of mold is allergic reaction.
- ✓ Molds can cause a variety of health risks dependent on the type and amount of mold present, and the susceptibility and sensitivity of the person being exposed.
- ✓ Most individuals will have no reaction at all when exposed to mold, while others may have underlying health conditions that make them more sensitive to the effects of mold exposure.



Health Effects Associated with Mold Exposure

Allergic Reactions

Fungal Infections

Others





Mold Chemistry

- ✓ Mold needs moisture and a food source to grow
- ✓ The key to mold and fungus growth prevention is eliminating the moisture source and clean-up of materials within 24 – 48 hours
- ✓ When any source of moisture is found, put in a work request to Facilities Services for repairs and dry out the area as soon as possible

Mold in dorms: Students responsibilities




Cleaning:

Students are responsible for cleaning their residence hall room.



Cleaning

Hang damp or wet towels, bath mats and any wet clothing articles (including shoes) to allow thorough drying after use to prevent microbes growth or musty odors



Cleaning



Clean any spills
immediately and
thoroughly

Empty your trash
regularly to the
dumpsters
outside

Cleaning



Vacuum

Vacuum carpet or rugs, sweep floors and dust rooms regularly

Avoid

Avoid leaving open food containers out

Seal

Seal all containers after use and refrigerate perishable foods

Dispose

Dispose of used food containers and food scraps regularly to prevent the growth of mold

Refrigerator tips



Keep refrigerator doors
tightly closed

Failure to secure
refrigerator doors may
result in defrosting of
the freezer and may
cause leaks

Micro-Climate Control

Controlling room micro climate is essential to the success of managing indoor air quality.

Moisture, humidity and temperature provide conducive for mold growth



Room Climate Control

Keep windows closed when the air condition unit is running

Use any pre-installed fan when bathing/showering, and allowing the fan to run until all excess moisture has vented from the bathroom

Students Responsibilities

Please note that you will be responsible for creating conditions within your room that are designated as your responsibility, and as deemed reasonably necessary.

Report any water problems, HVAC issues, or musty odors in a timely manner by submitting a maintenance request