



TIP OF THE MONTH



11 Most Common Mold Mistakes

1. **Failure to identify stains or discolorations as mold:** This can be easily done by taking a bulk sample of the affected building material or a tapelift of the suspect mold. CALL AET FOR DIRECTIONS.
2. **Failure to identify the reason(s) or source(s)** of the excessive moisture which caused the mold growth: Mold will regrow until the cause of the excessive moisture is fixed.
3. **Failure to respond** quickly to water leaks from plumbing lines, windows, roofs and floods: Mold will begin to grow within 48 hours.
4. **Using bleach or other agents** to remove surface mold or covering it with paint, wallpaper, carpet or tile: Unless all mold contaminated materials are removed or properly remediated, mold will keep coming back. Chemicals used to kill mold may cause other problems or symptoms in building occupants.
5. **Mold/mildew-like odor but no visible mold:** Hidden mold is found on the back side of drywall, wallpaper or paneling, the top side of ceiling tiles, the underside of carpet/pads and even embedded into wooden studs, joists, etc.
6. **New construction:** Building materials from the supplier may have sat in a yard directly exposed to rain or stored in damp facilities. Further, they may have been stored outdoors uncovered at the jobsite or installed properly during bad weather or installed improperly allowing water to damage these materials.
7. **Disregarding mold-related symptoms of building occupants:** Symptoms are often confused with allergies or flu but can become serious.
8. **Failure to identify complete extent of building materials and locations affected:** The right tools (moisture meters, infrared cameras, borescopes), training and project expertise ensure accurate decision-making.
9. **Waiting for the insurance company to decide:** Prompt response time and quick decision-making cannot wait. Let your mold consultant/contractor represent you during insurance company negotiations.
10. **Failure to perform adequate clean up of mold spores:** Proper containment and HEPA vacuum equipment are essential during mold disturbance. Improper cleanup can release 1-10 million mold spores per square inch from visible mold. Even dead mold spores are allergenic.
11. **Re-installation of replacement building materials** (such as drywall) without fixing the source of moisture and/or completely evaluating the extent of building materials affected. MOST COSTLY MISTAKE.

About our organization: AET has over 28 years of environmental contracting/consulting experience assisting our clients in facility planning, design, construction, renovation and maintenance. We specialize in establishing and maintaining proactive controls to verify/document work is completed safely, on-time, on-budget. Our services include real time particle monitoring, training and project oversight/management.

Don't Make These Mistakes!!! Email Harris Brody, CIH at h.brody@aetinc.biz or Call AET at 610-891-0114 or 1-800-9696-AET. We provide nationwide services; phone consultations are free. Check out the full range of mold consulting and contracting services AET provides at our website at www.aetinc.biz

ACCREDITED ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
28 N. Pennell Road • Media, PA 19063 • (610) 891-0114