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MOLD WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO SAMPLE?

Press Release

Lately, mold is a hot topic. There is a lot of stigma about mold there is poor information on mold and the health effects associated with mold. Some common myths on mold are:

- All mold that appears black is "black mold."
- If you can't see mold growing you are "safe."
- All mold causes health problems.
- If you see mold growing you can just use bleach to kill it.

Recently, due to an unusually rainy year in which the ground remained saturated for an extended period, buildings have become more damp due to flooding and leaks and mold may have begun growing where it did not before. When there is flooding, mold will start to amplify within the first 48 hours of water inundation and during this time it is critical to dry out any wet building materials. Mold exists everywhere, and if you call us to investigate a situation, it is our commitment to you to identify any health threatening molds and if necessary, develop a plan for abatement. We team with the best microbial remediation contractors and follow all recommended guidelines to ensure safety to you and your home or building.

RT Environmental Services, Inc. offers a wide range of Indoor Air Quality Services, including - testing for odors, VOCs, and mold. RT offers services to perform moisture surveys to identify wet building components as well as assess the quality of the air by measuring relative humidity to determine if conditions exist that are conducive to mold growth and amplification. Generally, a combination of a visual assessment along with moisture readings can determine if indoor air sampling for mold is necessary. RT recommends two types of mold air sampling - spore trap and culturable agar plate sampling.

Spore trap sampling offers the benefits of a preliminary screen to determine if mold is present in the air in quantities above background levels or if there are species identified in the indoor air sample that are not detected in the background sample. A background sample is required to be collected of outdoor air for comparison to indoor air samples. Sampling and analysis can be completed in as little as one day and analysis includes of a wide range of airborne particles - fungal spores, pollen, insect parts, skin cell fragments, fibers, and other inorganic particulates. The downside of this sampling procedure is that the mold spores can't be identified as living or dead and individual species of mold can't be differentiated from a risk assessment standpoint.

Culturable sampling offers the benefit of determining the living spores and identifying individual species of molds. Once individual species are known an abatement plan can be developed due to the severity of the mold amplification or if risk assessment molds exist. The process involves collecting the air sample on an agar plate, which the laboratory incubates and grows before using microscopy to identify the mold species; the process takes two weeks from sample collection to analysis.

RT has the knowledge to assist homeowners as well as building owners and property managers with all of your indoor air sampling needs. We provide professional service and are well-trained in the field of indoor air quality, which includes providing you with a Certified Microbial Consultant (CMC) trained and certified through the American Council for Accredited Certification. Our staff are members of the Indoor Air Quality Association.

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