

Mold is everywhere, but elevated levels in your property can cause serious health problems. Even if the mold is non-toxic, it still needs to be removed because the mold spores will still be present. If your property has a mold problem we have the knowledge and instrumentation to find it.

**Mold:** certain multi-cellular organisms of the various classes of the kingdom Fungi. There are over 100,000 different species of mold. Mold plays a key role in the decomposition of leaves, wood and other plant debris. Some molds can be useful to humans. Penicillium is a type of mold that is used to make cheeses such as Brie and Roquefort. The drug penicillin is produced by *Penicillium chrysogenum*, a common occurring mold in most homes.

Many molds such as Stachybotrys (a.k.a. black toxic mold) produce toxic chemicals called mycotoxins that can cause serious health problems. Some health problems attributed to mold are respiratory complications, dermatitis, chronic fatigue, memory loss, hives and many other complications.

Mold does not need light to grow; it only needs moisture. Moisture can come from high humidity, dampness or water damage. Mold reproduces by microscopic spores and can start growing within 24 -48 hours after water damage has occurred.

Mold grows both indoors and outdoors, but once it is inside is when one can start having problems.

One can be exposed to mold by inhalation, direct contact with skin or by accidental ingestion. Exposure to mold isn't good for anyone and the following people can have more adverse affects to mold: infants/ children, elderly, people with immune system deficiencies, pregnant women and individuals with respiratory conditions.

It is common to find mold spores inside your home, but large amounts can cause problems. Currently there are no EPA or government guidelines on limits of mold or mold spores. Therefore, sampling is only useful to determine what type(s) of mold(s) are present. Sampling is also done after remediation to make sure the mold is removed.

#### Reasons to Inspect:

- Musty odors
- Recent indoor flood
- Recent water leak (plumbing or roof)
- Unexplained illness in your family
- Home inspector or other professional has recommended a mold inspection

#### Where to look:

##### Interior:

Attic, Basement, Bathroom, Kitchen, Laundry room, or anywhere a moisture problem can occur.

##### Exterior:

Foundation (does the grade slope towards the building?), Roof, Window seals, Gutters/Down spouts.

#### Sampling Methods (any or all below):

- Air Sample (an outside sample is also taken as a control sample)
- Bulk Material (pieces of drywall)
- Surface Sample (tape lift or swab)
- Carpet Dust Check

All inspections and remediations are done in accordance to NY City Department of Health Guidelines and are confidential, (only to be shared with the customer).

Only Certified Mold Inspectors have the training and qualifications needed to take samples. We also have the proper equipment and expertise not to contaminate the sample. The sample is then sent to an independent lab for testing, with results received in a few days. Mold Seekers will then explain the results to the customer and answer any and all questions.

## Reason I became a mold inspector:

I decided to become a mold inspector after a family friend's house was in the process of being sold. During the home inspection a home inspector found a "mold type substance". They had it inspected and it was mold, toxic mold. The mold was remediated and the buyers bought the house. Since I have always been interested in biology, I started researching mold and its affect on people. It only made sense that I become certified so I can help people understand the affects of mold in their homes and improve their quality of life.

I am a certified mold inspector (CMI) and mold remediator (CMR) through Micro Consulting in Kirkland, Washington.

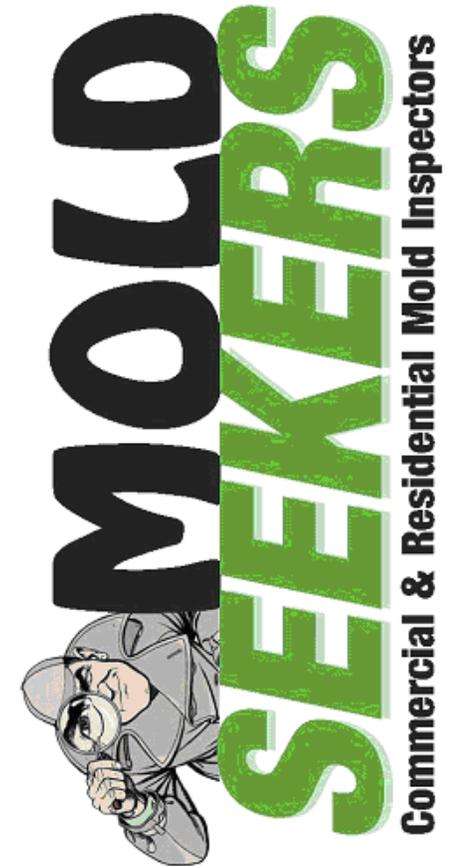
I am a member of American Indoor Air Quality Council. [www.iaqcouncil.org](http://www.iaqcouncil.org)



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*Working to make your environment a safer  
place to breathe.*

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