

# FACT SHEET

## Mould

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Mould is a common term referring to various species of fungi that are a natural part of the environment.

We are all exposed to moulds, both indoors and outdoors, on a daily basis, usually without ill effect. The indoor levels in buildings without water damage are normally lower than outdoor levels.

Health risks increase with exposure to higher mould levels, especially in an indoor setting where occupants spend more time (i.e. home, workplace). The health effects are dependent upon the type and amount of mould, and each person's susceptibility.

People have different sensitivities to mould, so not all people will react when exposed. Some airborne moulds can cause severe infections in people with severely weakened immune systems. People who are concerned their health is being affected by mould should talk to a physician and call SAFE (4737233) to report it.

There is no practical way to eliminate all mould and mould spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mould growth is to control moisture because moulds need it to grow.

### **Mould prevention:**

If the event of a leak or flood:

- A work order needs to be put in to fix the source of the water problem or leak to prevent mould growth.
- Housekeeping needs to be notified to clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 48 hours to prevent mould growth.

If stained ceiling tiles are found in your working area, please put in a work order to have them replaced.