

List mould hazards on site

Explain dangers

Moulds can be a health hazard in buildings that are already built or under construction.

Some moulds are toxic. Touching them—or breathing in their spores—can be harmful.

Symptoms include

- irritated skin, eyes, nose, and throat
- runny nose and watery eyes
- trouble breathing
- fatigue and headaches.

People allergic to moulds may get nosebleeds and a severe cough.

If your immune system is weak, you shouldn't work in mould-contaminated areas.

Not everyone exposed to toxic moulds will develop symptoms.

Describe moulds

Appearance

Moulds are colourful and woolly. They can be almost any colour—red, blue, brown, green, white, or black. They reproduce by releasing spores into the air. More mould may grow where the spores land.

Location

Mould thrives on cellulose material that is wet or water-soaked. This includes drywall, ceiling tiles, wallpaper, particleboard, insulation, and plywood.

Moulds love dark, moist places and can grow at room temperature.

Mould has been found in portable classrooms with moisture problems. This is usually a black mould that looks slimy.

You may be exposed to moulds when you work in damp locations or water-damaged buildings.

Sometimes, mould can be present when you don't see it. It can be growing behind drywall, under carpets, or in a ventilation system.

Identify controls

Visible mould may be just the tip of the iceberg. More mould may be growing out of sight behind walls, under floors, and above ceilings.

Samples have to be taken and analyzed in a lab to see whether the mould is dangerous.

If you find mouldy areas on a job, tell your supervisor. The company may arrange to have tests done.

Toxic moulds must be removed. There's no way to work around them. Removal calls for special procedures, including protective equipment such as respirators, coveralls, and gloves.

If mould removal is required, it's the company's responsibility to train and equip you for the job.

Demonstrate

Demonstrate clean-up measures.