

# The Safety Zone

The Newsletter of the AHA Workers' Compensation Self-Insured Trust

## Meeting Mold in the Workplace

### *What you need to know*

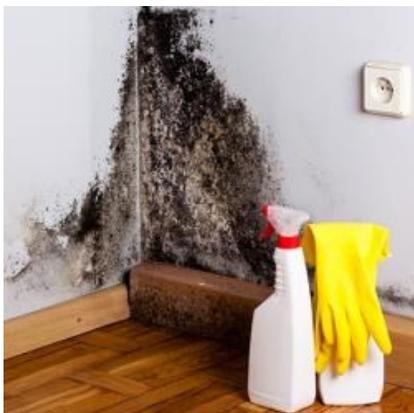
All molds need moisture to grow. So be aware of these common sources of indoor moisture that can cause mold problems:

- Flooding
- Plumbing leaks and roof leaks
- Damp basements or crawl spaces
- Anywhere moist air condenses on cold surfaces
- Poorly ventilated bathrooms and kitchens

Here are the areas where mold is likely to be found:

- Wet or damp drywall
- Carpets
- Ceiling tiles
- Behind wallpaper
- Inside walls
- In heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Molds can be detected by sight; they can be any color, including white, orange, green, brown or black. Molds can also be detected by smell; they often have a musty or earthy odor.



Allergic reactions in people who are sensitive to mold include:

- Red, itchy skin or rash
- Asthma
- Mold allergy

**Continued**

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## news & notes

### NEW NIOSH APP

For more than 40 years, safety and health professionals and others have relied on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) *Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards*. Now a mobile app for the guide offers quick access to information on more than 600 chemicals.

The pocket guide, created by NIOSH, informs workers, employers and EHS professionals about workplace chemicals and their hazards by providing industrial hygiene information for hundreds of chemicals and classes. NIOSH says the new app puts the information at a user's fingertips. It contains all of the content from the *Pocket Guide*, allowing for quick searches by:

- Chemical name,
- Trade name or synonym,
- The Department of Transportation (DOT) number, *and*
- The Chemical Abstracts Services (CAS) number.

Users can store chemical records as "favorites" for later use and can control which data about a given chemical are displayed. No data pass between the user device and NIOSH other than the initial download and updates, alleviating privacy concerns.

To install the mobile *NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards* Mobile Web Application, go to: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/mobilepocketguide.html?s\\_cid=3ni7d2NiUpdateNPG07142016](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/mobilepocketguide.html?s_cid=3ni7d2NiUpdateNPG07142016).



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### Medcor (Injury at work)

800-775-5866

## Meeting Mold in the Workplace, continued

Mold allergies can be treated by:

- Getting rid of indoor mold,
- Avoiding contact with mold spores
- Taking medications, such as antihistamines, for allergy symptoms
- Getting allergy shots.

If you suspect a mold problem in your work area, report it immediately to your supervisor. Serious mold issues need to be handled by trained personnel. But here are general **don'ts** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency you should know for dealing with mold:

- Do NOT use bleach as a substitute for removal; bleach creates another hazard.
- Do NOT disturb suspect mold materials without respiratory protection.
- Do NOT use an air mover where dry materials can be disseminated.

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## Got News?

Do you have news that needs to be circulated or have a subject you would like for us to address? Let us know by emailing the newsletter editor at [tcreel@arkhospitals.org](mailto:tcreel@arkhospitals.org).

AHA Workers' Compensation Self-Insured Trust Program is administered by Risk Management Resources (RMR), a division of BancorpSouth Insurance Services, Inc. [www.bxsi.com](http://www.bxsi.com). In March 2003 the AHA Workers' Compensation Self-Insured Trust was established. The program provides workers' compensation coverage to AHA members.

Risk Management Resources, the administrator for the program, assists members in the areas of claims management, safety and loss control. Tina Creel, President of AHA Services, Inc., is the Group Manager of the Trust and provides oversight of the day-to-day operation of the Trust.

The Board of Trustees provides oversight of the overall operation of the Group Trust.