



# PREVENTING THE COMMON MOLD

- ✓ Keep surfaces DRY and DUST free
- ✓ Regularly check for LEAKS. Repair immediately to prevent damage.
- ✓ Too much MOISTURE is often the cause of mold. Always use fans or ventilation when showering, cooking or washing dishes.
- ✓ Too much DUST is also a factor in mold growth. Vacuum and damp-dust weekly, and remove shoes at the door – both help!
- ✓ If you don't have a FAN, open a WINDOW during these activities.
- ✓ Keep humidity in homes to between 40-50% year round.
- ✓ Make sure you VENT appliances - clothes dryers, stoves and other appliances that produce moisture.
- ✓ Store FIREWOOD outside (in a covered area). Firewood is a source of moisture, fungi and bugs.

## *CLEANING IT UP*

- ✓ Identify and correct the moisture source (e.g., leaky roof or window).
- ✓ Clean and dry the wet area. (Should be cleaned quickly; mold will grow within 24 to 48 hours.)
- ✓ Scrub off the mold with detergent. BLEACH is not necessary, and is lung irritant, so should be avoided.
- ✓ If you can SMELL mold, but not see it, chances are it is growing in the drywall, flooring or attic. Have a housing inspector investigate for moisture intrusion (mold testing is not necessary).

## *PROTECTING YOURSELF*

- ✓ It is a good precaution to always wear a MASK and GLOVES when cleaning areas affected by mold growth - and when removing damaged materials.
- ✓ Avoid using bleach – it is a lung IRRITANT. To remove mold, detergent and scrub brush work fine.