

Do All Molds Pose A Health Risk?

There are quite a few varieties of mold, and some will cause more problems than others if allowed to flourish. Currently, the most infamous of molds is the "Stachybotrys" which is believed to cause problems such as bleeding lungs in susceptible people, including infants and children. It's more commonly known as "Black Mold" and can be many colors, often a greenish-black. Exposure allegedly can cause a myriad of ailments from minor problems such as cold and flu symptoms, sore throats, headaches and fatigue all the way to dementia. The individual's susceptibility, amount of mold present and the amount of time someone is exposed to it will be factors in how bad the reactions will be.

Interestingly, despite the fact that this particular mold has gotten so much press, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has yet to take a stand on the issue, arguing that more research is needed, and a recent cover story in the New York Times Magazine stated that there is "no definitive epidemiological study proving that mold makes people sick". Looks like we have yet another one of those environmental issues that we have to deal with over the years along with oil tanks, asbestos, etc. As a matter of fact, homebuilders and contractors are worried mold could be the next asbestos, as new claims of mold contamination are blamed on defective construction. It's definitely the environmental issue and legal issue 'du jour'.