

What Do You Look For and Who Can Do That For You?

Unfortunately, you can't tell by visual examination, because not all black-molds are the toxic kinds. For instance, toxic black-mold usually cannot grow on ceramic tile, so if your shower has black-mold in it, it is unlikely that it is the toxic kind. However, black-mold growing on most any other surfaces in a home, such as wood, drywall, carpet or plaster, may well be "Stachybotrys".

It may require genetic testing to positively identify mold. What you can do is be alert for the presence of mold or conditions that are likely to lead to mold. Mold will grow wherever it is exposed to organic material (such as most building materials), water and air. Unattended water leaks will almost always lead to a mold problem. If mold is visible, it is very likely that a leak of some kind is nearby.

A sizable area of mold should be tested by a laboratory; it is the only way to know for sure. To make your life even more complicated as it relates to this issue, the Department of Health does NOT recommend testing for mold contamination because there are few standards for judging what is an acceptable quantity of mold. In all locations there is some level of airborne mold, indoors and outdoors. So if sampling is done, they should be collected BOTH indoors and outdoors at the same time to provide a baseline measurement. Individual susceptibility varies greatly, so sampling is a best general guide.