

What To Do About A Mold Problem where you live: For Tenants

How do I know it's mold?

- Mold can often be seen and smelled.
- Mold can smell like lots of different things, a common smell is like wet clothes left in a plastic bag. It can look like a stain or a dust that is growing and spreading.
- You don't usually need to hire someone to test the mold if you can see it and smell it. Instead just work on fixing the problem that is causing the mold.



Can mold make you sick?

- Some people are more easily harmed by mold than others.
- Mold can cause a stuffy nose, itchy, watery or red eyes, or a skin rash. Some people may even have trouble breathing.
- People who are allergic to mold may have worse reactions.
- Mold can cause asthma attacks in people who have asthma.

How do you get rid of mold?

1. Find and fix the problem that is causing the extra water (moisture).
2. Clean up the mold. Just use soap and water, not bleach. Wear gloves and a face mask. If the area is large or the building materials are damaged, your landlord may need to get professional help.

Work with your Landlord

- Tell your landlord about the problem and ask him/her to help fix it.
- Make sure you are helping to prevent mold problems – the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council's tenant checklist has a handy list of steps you can take.
- If you need to, send your landlord a written letter and keep a copy. Use the form letter on the last page of chapter 14 of the Consumer Law Guide on the Attorney General's Office website at www.maine.gov/ag.
- Know your rights. If your landlord fails to provide you with a safe and healthy living environment, you may need legal help. Read the Rights of Tenants in Maine at <http://www.ptla.org/rights-tenants-maine>.



Where can I get help?

- **Your town office:** The Local Health Officer or Code Enforcement Officer may be able to help your landlord understand the mold problem.
- **Your doctor:** If you are having health problems, please talk to your doctor. Other illnesses can cause the same signs.
- **The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council** has great information on their website at www.maineindoorair.org or call 207-626-8115.