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**THOR WIEBE HOME INSP - MARSHALL**  
903 BOXELDER ST  
MARSHALL, MN 56258

**Report Date:** Jun 26, 2009

Prepared For: **THOR WIEBE HOME INSP - MARSHALL**

Received Date: **Jun 25, 2009**

Analysis Date: **Jun 26, 2009**

Report Number: **062509-0332**



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The above information was compiled by PRO-LAB/SSPTM Inc. from the EPA "A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and your Home" and the NYC Dept of Health "Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments", at the request of and for the exclusive use of the client named on this report. This document is not a legal mandate and should be used for informational purposes only. Currently there are no Federal regulations for evaluating potential health effects of fungal contamination and remediation. This information is subject to change as more information regarding fungal contaminants becomes available. For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/index.html> or [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/ei/eimold.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/ei/eimold.html). This document was designed to follow currently known industry guidelines for the interpretation of microbial sampling, analysis, and remediation. Since interpretation of mold analysis reports is a scientific work in progress, it may as such be changed at any time without notice. The client is solely responsible for the use or interpretation. PRO-LAB/SSPTM Inc. makes no express or implied warranties as to health of a property from only the samples sent to thier laboratory for analysis. The Client is hereby notified that due to the subjective nature of fungal analysis and the mold growth process, laboratory samples can and do change over time relative to the originally sampled material. PRO-LAB/SSPTM Inc. reserves the right to properly dispose of all samples after the testing of such samples are sufficiently completed or after a 7 day period, whichever is greater. PRO-LAB/SSPTM Inc. participates in

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**For more information please contact Pro-Lab at 1-800-427-0550**

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# Mold Analysis Report

## Direct Microscopic Examination

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John D. Shane Ph.D., QA Manager

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The following fungal descriptions are pertinent to samples collected. General characterization of mold is made with respect to their most common impact to human health. Many genera of molds have species with varying characteristics.

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Spore Name	Description
CLADOSPORIUM	COMMONLY FOUND ON DEAD PLANTS, WOODY PLANTS, FOOD, STRAW, SOIL, PAINT AND TEXTILES. COMMON CAUSE OF EXTRINSIC ASTHMA (IMMEDIATE-TYPE HYPERSENSITIVITY: TYPE I). ACUTE SYMPTOMS INCLUDE EDEMA AND BRONCHIOSPASMS; CHRONIC CASES MAY DEVELOP PULMONARY EMPHYSEMA.
HYPHAE	TUBULAR, THREAD-LIKE STURCTURE(S) THAT REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY OF THE BODY OF THE FUNGAL ORGANISM. HYPHAE CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED AS TO WHAT KIND OF FUNGUS THEY ORIGINATED FROM AND IF IT IS LIVING. THE PRESENCE OF HYPHAE IDENTIFIED FROM A SWAB OR TAPE SAMPLE REPRESENTS A LIKELIHOOD OF PRESENT OR FORMER FUNGAL GROWTH.
OTHER BASIDIOSPORES	SPORES FROM ONE OF THE MAJOR GROUPS OF FUNGI THAT INCLUDE MUSHROOMS LIKE THE SHELF FUNGI, PUFFBALLS AND COMMON BUTTON MUSHROOMS SOLD IN GROCERY STORES. MOST SPORES PRODUCED FROM THIS GROUP OF FUNGI HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND TO BE ALLERGENIC OR TOXIC.
PENICILLIUM/ASPERGILLUS	THIS GROUP IS CONSIDERED COMMON TO INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS. IT IS WIDESPREAD IN THE SOIL AND ON PLANTS AND IS ALSO CONSIDERED A COMMON CONTAMINANT OF FOOD. IT HAS A MUSTY ODOR. IT IS COMMONLY BEING IMPLICATED IN PULMONARY DISEASE IN IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOSTS. IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED TO CAUSE SKIN INFECTIONS. MANY SPECIES PRODUCE MYCOTOXINS, WHICH MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH DISEASE IN HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS. TOXIN PRODUCTION IS DEPENDENT ON THE STRAIN, OR ON THE FOOD SOURCE ON WHICH IT GROWS. SOME OF THESE TOXINS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE CARCINOGENIC IN ANIMAL SPECIES. SEVERAL TOXINS ARE CONSIDERED POTENTIAL HUMAN CARCINOGENS.
UNIDENTIFIED SPORES	SPORES IN THIS CATEGORY ARE THOSE THAT SCIENCE HAS NOT YET CLASSIFIED, OR SPORES THAT CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED WITH CERTAINTY. THE EXTENT OF THEIR ALLERGENICITY OR TOXICITY IS UNKNOWN.

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## Report Summary:

<b>Pro-Lab Number:</b>	062509-0332	<b>Sample Submitted:</b>	SWAB
<b>Unusual Mold Condition(s) Exists:</b>	Yes		

The sample in this report indicates the presence of mold spores for this specific location only. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that any indoor mold growth be addressed and that all water or moisture sources be eliminated.

The mold identified in this report is often associated with excess moisture and can be a problem in indoor environments at high levels. Since mold requires water to grow, it is important to prevent moisture problems in buildings. The presence of mold, water damage or musty odors should be addressed immediately. In all instances, any source(s) of water must be stopped and the extent of water damage determined. Mold can grow on virtually any organic surface, as long as moisture and oxygen are present. When excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or unaddressed. Building materials, such as drywall are made of cellulose and are highly absorbent, perfect surfaces for mold growth when wet. Moisture problems may include roof leaks, plumbing leaks, landscaping or gutters that direct water into or under the building, and unvented combustion appliances such as gas stoves. Water damaged building materials supporting mold growth should be cleaned or replaced as quickly as possible in order to ensure a healthy environment. Specific methods of assessing and remediating mold contamination should be based on the extent of visible contamination and the cause of damage.

The most common symptoms of mold exposure are runny nose, eye irritation, cough, congestion, and aggravation of asthma. Individuals with persistent health problems that appear to be related to mold or other types of air quality contaminant exposure should see their physicians for a referral to professionals who are trained in occupational/environmental medicine or related specialties and are knowledgeable about these types of exposures. Decisions about removing individuals from an affected area must be based on the results of such medical evaluation. Since mold is naturally present in outdoor environments and we share the same air between the indoors and the outdoors, it is impossible to eliminate all mold and their spores from the indoor environment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL PRO-LAB™ AT 1-800-427-0550**

**END OF REPORT**

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## Comments:

## Indoor Air Quality Testing

### Introduction

It is important to realize and understand that everyone is exposed to mold throughout their lives. Exposures to mold are virtually inevitable in everyday life because mold of one kind or another is ever-present in the indoor and outdoor environment. Thus, such exposures can be considered "unavoidable", "tolerable", or "acceptable" for the majority of healthy persons.

### Understanding Mold

Mold grows throughout the natural as well as the built environment. Tiny particles of mold are present in both indoor and outdoor air. Mold produce microscopic cells called "spores" which are extremely tiny and spread easily through the air. This is how they reproduce. Mold spores are present through the indoor and outdoor air continually. When mold spores land on a damp spot indoors, they may begin growing and digesting whatever they are growing on in order to survive. There are mold that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods. When excessive moisture or water accumulates indoors, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or un-addressed. There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment. The way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.

### Controlling Moisture

The most critical step in solving a mold problem is to accurately identify and rectify the moisture sources that allowed the growth to occur. In order to prevent mold from growing, it is imperative that water damaged areas be dried within a 24-48 period. If mold is a problem in the home, the mold must be cleaned up and the excess water or moisture removed. There are many common sources of excess moisture that can contribute to indoor mold growth. Some of the primary means of moisture entry into homes and buildings are water leakage (such as roof or plumbing leaks), vapor migration, capillary movement, air infiltration, humidifier use, and inadequate venting of kitchen and bath humidity. Temperature must also be considered because of its role in moisture transfer and condensation. The key is to reduce indoor humidity and identify the molds' point of origin.

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## Mold Testing Purposes

### Contamination Sources

If the source of moisture is not easily detected, mold testing can prove beneficial. Often a roof leak or a plumbing leak can be identified as the source. The difficulty arises when there is an odor present or when an occupant shows signs of mold exposure but no visible mold is discovered.

### Scope of Remediation/Restoration:

The area that is contaminated and the extent of the contamination will determine the scope of the remediation required. Following the completion of the remediation process, mold testing should be performed to obtain clearance.

## Mold Sampling Methods

### Mold Sampling Methods

A wide variety of analytical methods are available to investigators to study biological agents in indoor environments. Since there are no generally accepted guidelines for fungi or bacteria, comparison with reference samples is the most useful approach. Reference samples are usually outdoor samples and samples from "non-complaint" areas. In general, indoor fungal concentrations should be similar to or lower than outdoor levels. If fungi at a significant level are only found indoors, this often suggests indoor amplification of the fungi. Furthermore, the detection of some fungi, even at low levels, may require further evaluation.

The word "sample" means different things in different contexts. At times, investigators use the term to designate an individual measurement (e.g., an air or source sample). However, a sample may also designate a set of measurements (e.g., multiple measurements of some parameter that comprise a sample of size n). In either case, the goal of sampling is to learn about entire populations by looking at subsets of the members of the population.

There are several types of testing methods that can detect the presence of mold. They can be used to find mold particles which are suspended in air, in settled dust, or growing on surfaces of building materials and furnishings. Some methods can identify a portion of the types of live molds in a sampled environment.

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## Surface Sampling Methods

### Surface Sampling Methods

Surface sampling can be useful for differentiating between mold growth and stains, for identifying the type of mold growth that may be present and, in some instances, identifying signs of mold growth in a general vicinity. Surface sampling can improve the accuracy of the results and interpretation of the inspected environment if sampled correctly, although not required. The following are the different types of surface samples that are commonly used to perform a direct examination of a specific location:

#### Tape (or tape-lift)

These samples can be collected using clear adhesive tape or packing tape. For microscopic examination of collected particles, adhesive tapes must be of good optical quality and compatible with any stains the analytical laboratory may use on the specimens. Easily removed material is collected by touching the tape gently to a test surface and removing the tape with a steady force.

#### Bulk

These are portions of environmental materials (e.g., settled dust, sections of wall board, pieces of duct lining, carpet segments, or return-air filters) tested to determine if they may contain or be contaminated with biological agents. The objective of such sampling is to collect a portion of material small enough to be transported conveniently and handled easily in the laboratory while still representing the material being sampled. Samples obtained using this method can be analyzed using culturing or direct microscopy.

#### Swab:

These are very similar to tape samples except for a sterile wipe (looks like a long Q-tip) is used to test an area of suspected mold. Samples obtained using this method can be analyzed using culturing or direct microscopy.

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## Comments:

## Air Sampling Methods

### Air Sampling Methods

Air samples are possibly the most common type of environmental sample that investigators collect to study bioaerosols. The physics of removing particles from the air and the general principles of good sample collection apply to all airborne materials, whether biological or other origin. Therefore, many of the basic principles investigators use to identify and quantify other airborne particulate matter can be adapted to bioaerosol sampling. Common to all aerosol samplers is consideration of collection efficiency. The following are the two most common forms of air sampling methods:

#### Micro5

The Micro5 Microcell uses spore trap cassettes in conjunction with a portable air pump to rapidly collect airborne aerosols including mold, pollen and other particulates. Air is drawn through a small opening at the top of the cassette and spores are trapped on a sticky surface inside the cassette.

#### Air-O-Cell

These are similar to the Micro5 spore trap cassettes in that they are also used in conjunction with portable air pumps. The difference is in the air flow sampling rate.

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## Data Interpretation

### Data Interpretation

The term "data" can vary and may consist of the simple observation of fungal growth on a wall, analytical measurements from hundreds of environmental samples, or the results of a survey of building occupants with and without particular building-related conditions.

Data interpretation is the process whereby investigators make decisions on (a) the relevance to human exposure of environmental observations and measurements, (b) the strength of associations between exposure and health status, and (c) the probability of current or future risks. These interpretation steps are followed by decisions on what measures can be taken to interrupt exposure and prevent future problems.

## Remediation of Mold

### Remediation of Mold

Prevention of mold growth indoors is only possible if the factors that may allow it are identified and controlled. When prevention has failed and visible growth has occurred in a home or building, restoration requires (a) removal of porous materials showing extensive microbial growth, (b) physical removal of surface microbial growth on non-porous materials to typical background levels, and (c) reduction of moisture to levels that do not support microbial growth.

Identification of the conditions that contributed to microbial proliferation in a home or building is the most important step in remediation. No effective control strategy can be implemented without a clear understanding of the events or building dynamics responsible for microbial growth.

## Symptoms of Mold Exposure

### Symptoms of Mold Exposure

The most common symptoms of mold exposure are runny nose, eye irritation, cough, congestion, and aggravation of asthma. Individuals with persistent health problems that appear to be related to mold or other types of air quality contaminant exposure should see their physicians for a referral to specialists who are trained in occupational/environmental medicine or related specialties and are knowledgeable about these types of exposures. Decisions about removing individuals from an affected area must be based on the results of such medical evaluation. Since mold is naturally present in outdoor environments and we share the same air between the indoors and the outdoors, it is impossible to eliminate.



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## Comments:

### Mold Recap: Ten Things You Should Know About Mold

#### Mold Recap: Ten Things You Should Know About Mold

- 1) Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory problems.
- 2) There is no practical way to eliminate mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.
- 3) If mold is a problem in your home or building, you must clean up the mold and eliminate sources of moisture.
- 4) The source of the water problem or leak must be repaired to prevent mold growth.
- 5) Indoor humidity must be reduced (to 30-60%) to decrease mold growth by: adequately venting bathrooms, dryers, and other moisture-generating sources to the outside; using air conditioners and de-humidifiers; increasing ventilation; and using exhaust fans whenever cooking, dishwashing and cleaning.
- 6) Clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.
- 7) Clean mold off of hard surfaces with water and detergent and dry completely.
- 8) Prevent condensation: reduce the potential for condensation on cold surfaces (e.g., windows, piping, exterior walls, roof, or floors) by adding insulation.
- 9) In areas where there is a perpetual moisture problem, do not install carpeting
- 10) Mold can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any substance, providing moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods.

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## References & Resources

### References

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Indoor Air and Human Health, Gammage & Kaye. 1985. Lewis Publishers.

Microfungi, S.G. Gravesen, J.C. Frisvad, & R.A. Samson, published by Munksgaard.

### Useful Websites

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## References & Resources

[www.acgih.org](http://www.acgih.org)

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists - information on IAQ and useful links.

[www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)

American Industrial Hygiene Association - general IAQ information

[www.calepa.ca.gov](http://www.calepa.ca.gov)

California Environmental Protection Agency - California IAQ resources

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

Environmental Protection Agency - information regarding prevention and remediation of mold

[www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us)

New York State Department of Health - New York state recommendations for IAQ, indoor mold inspections, remediation, and prevention

[www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)

National Institutes of Health - information regarding environmental health issues, including IAQ

[www.niehs.nih.gov](http://www.niehs.nih.gov)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences - information on mold

The above information was compiled by PRO-LAB/SSPTM Inc. from the EPA's "A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and your Home" and the NYC Dept. of Health "Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments", at the request of and for the exclusive use of the client named on this report. This document is not a legal mandate and should be used for informational purposes only. Currently there are no Federal regulations for evaluating potential health effects of fungal contamination and remediation. This information is subject to change as more information regarding fungal contaminants becomes available. For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/index.html> or [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/ei/eimold.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/ei/eimold.html). This document was designed to follow currently known industry guidelines for the interpretation of microbial sampling, analysis, and remediation. Since interpretation of mold analysis reports is a scientific work in progress, it may as such be changed at any time without notice. The client is solely responsible for the use or interpretation. PRO-LAB/SSPTM Inc. makes no express or implied warranties as to health of a property from only the samples sent to thier laboratory for analysis. The Client is hereby notified that due to the subjective nature of fungal analysis and the mold growth process, laboratory samples can and do change over time relative to the originally