

ANSI/IICRC S520

ANSI/IICRC S520-2015

STANDARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MOLD REMEDIATION

Third Edition



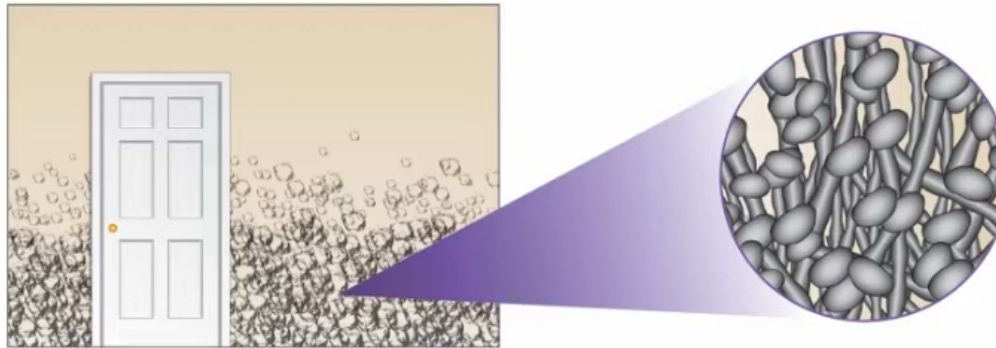
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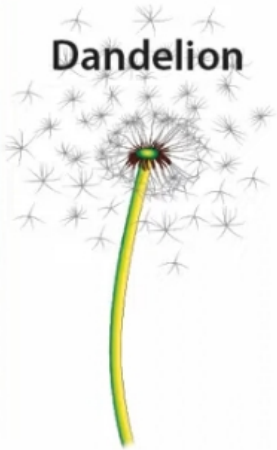
Transforming Challenges into Triumphs

Why Is Proper Mold Removal Needed?

To protect you from microscopic mold spores. Mold is nature's recycling program. It reclaims dead trees and plants which, unfortunately, is what we build our houses with. A mold colony grows, like ivy, across wet surfaces to digest anything organic – wood, drywall and dust for example - and mold spores are its seeds. Some health problems stem from the mold colony but most are caused by spores.



Dandelion

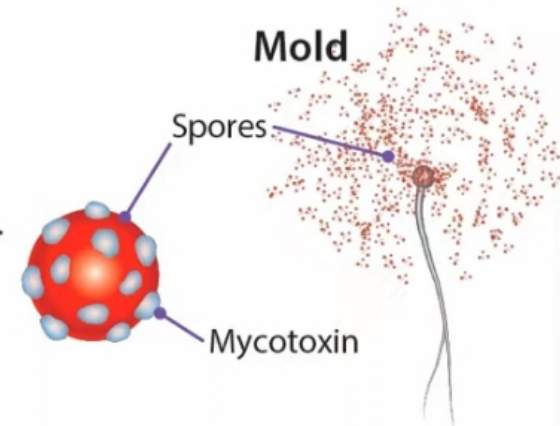


Dandelion vs Mold

Just like a dandelion, mold spores grow on a stalk up from the colony. Mold spores are 1/10 the size of a human hair and 250,000 spores fit on the head of a pin.

If the mold colony is touched, cleaned, torn out or disturbed, then millions of spores float off and contaminate the area.

Mold





Why Is Mold A Concern?

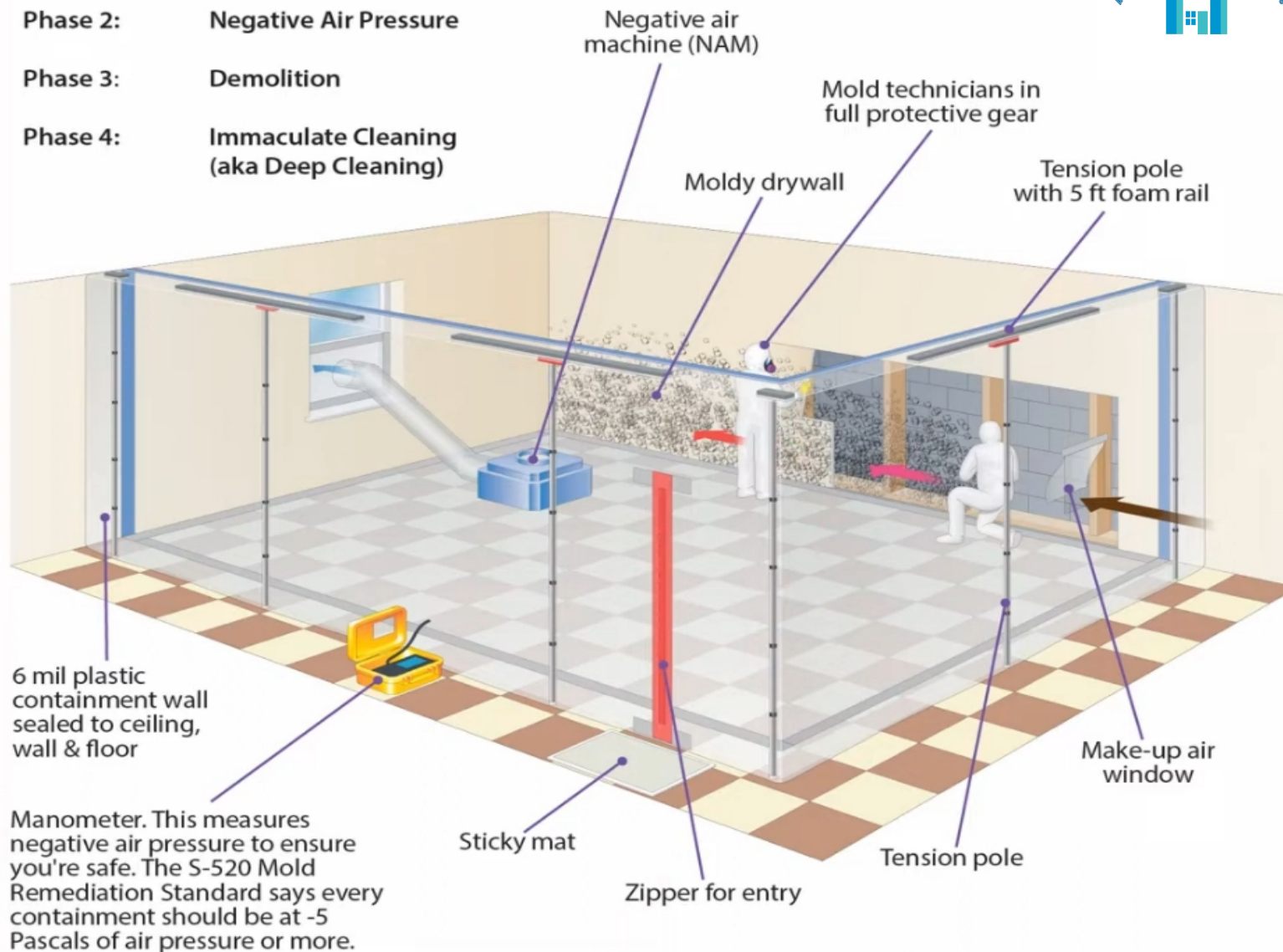
Mold can cause a huge variety of health problems. Some problems appear immediately. Some only emerge after prolonged exposure. The worst reactions are commonly called mold sensitization or Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS). This is typically a life-long condition where the body overreacts to small amounts of mold. It's triggered by 1 or 2 large mold exposures or repeated exposures to small amounts of mold.

3 Health Reactions To Mold

Health Effect	Caused By	Symptoms
Allergic Reaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- mold colony fragments- mold spores	runny nose, sneezing, rash, headaches, asthma
Chemical Exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- mVOC's (off-gassing of active mold colony)- mycotoxins that coat every mold spore	loss of memory, fatigue, personality change, aches, vomiting, cramps, dizziness, sore throat
Fungal Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- inhalation or exposure to spores	death, fever, pain, flu-like symptoms, rash

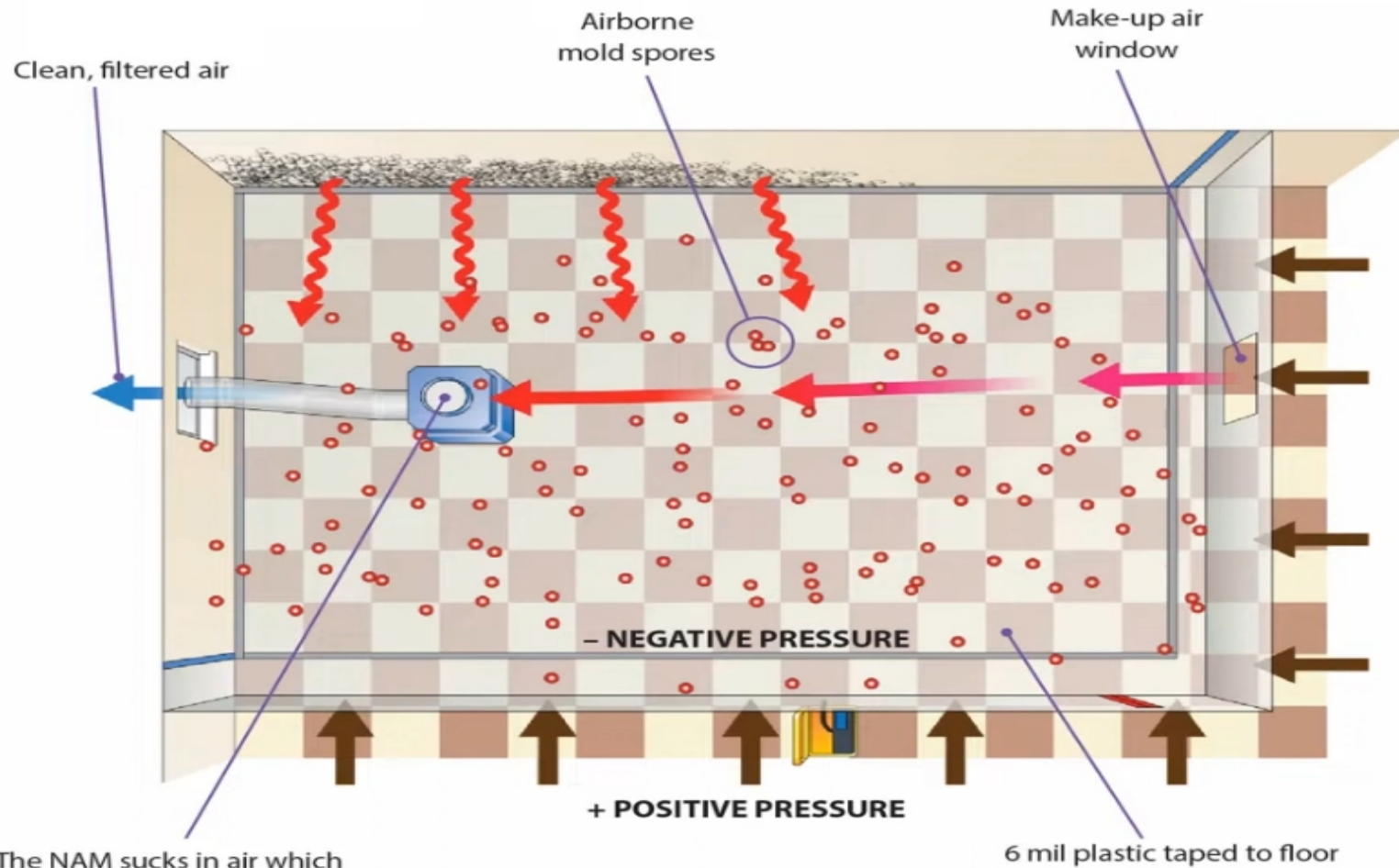
The Four Phases To A Mold Remediation Project:

- Phase 1: Containment
- Phase 2: Negative Air Pressure
- Phase 3: Demolition
- Phase 4: Immaculate Cleaning (aka Deep Cleaning)



Phases 1 & 2: Containment And Negative Air Pressure

The containment and negative air pressure are critical because it keeps the mold spores trapped until we can clean them up. Compared to typical airborne levels of 1,000 mold spores or less, they easily skyrocket to 500,000 during demolition – even when there's less than 10 square feet of mold!



The NAM sucks in air which forces all airborne spores to stay inside the containment.

Phase 3: Demolition

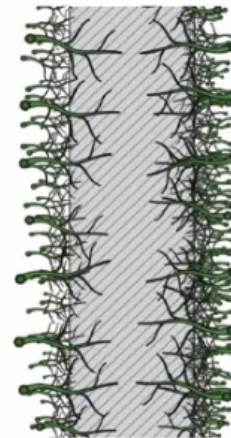
Porous materials

There is no way to make moldy drywall, insulation or carpet safe again. From the EPA to the CDC, everyone agrees those materials must be thrown away.

Semi-porous

Per the "Bible" of the mold industry (IICRC S-520), moldy wood, concrete and plaster can be salvaged if the mold is physically stripped out by sanding, wire brushing or blasting. However many companies take a massive shortcut - using chemicals to bleach the color out of the mold. It looks clean so they get away with it but the health hazard is still there.

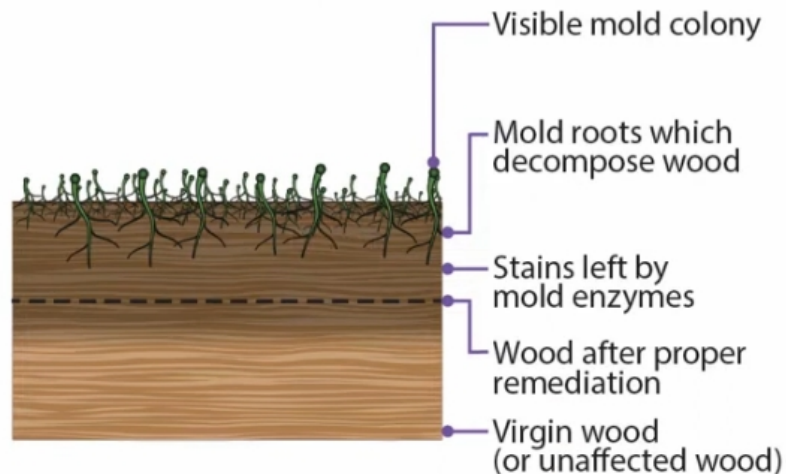
Hidden Hazard



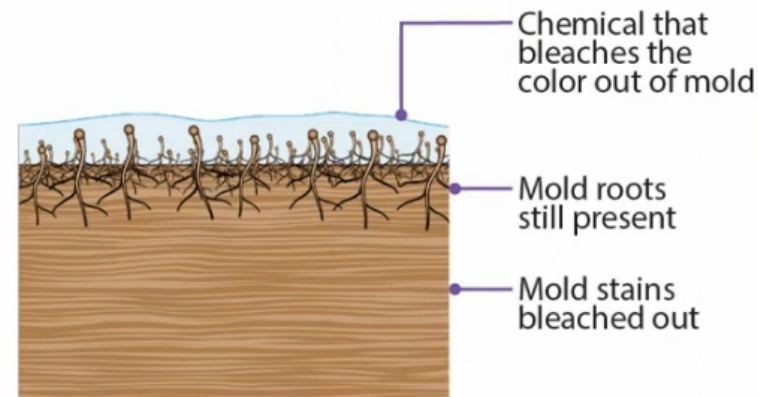
Mold is typically 3-4 times worse on the backside you can't see.



Mold In Wood



Chemical Short Cut

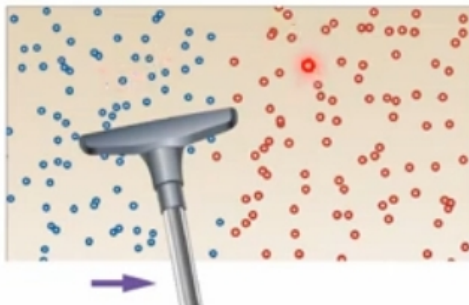
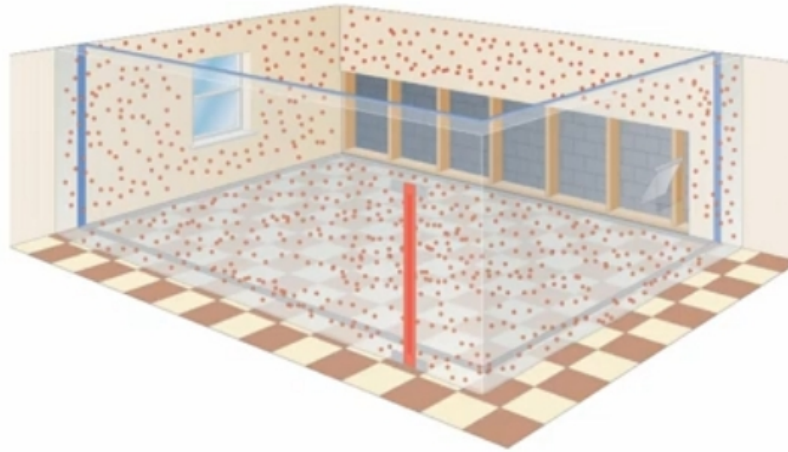


Phase 4: Immaculate Cleaning

After demolition, there are no visible mold colonies but the containment is still teeming with mold spores.

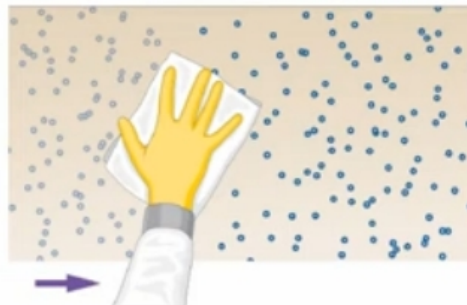
Like dust, mold spores are only airborne for a few hours before they cling to ceilings and walls but mainly they settle on the floor.

Immaculate cleaning is a 3 step process that removes mold spores and mycotoxins.



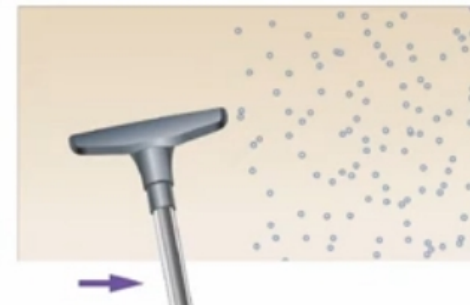
Step 1: HEPA Vacuum

Mold spores are removed by vacuuming every square inch of the containment area using a vacuum specially built for mold removal—not a store bought HEPA vacuum.



Step 2: Damp Wipe

Mycotoxins are very sticky so they remain behind. Its bond with the surface is broken by damp wiping every square inch with a special mixture.



Step 3: HEPA Vacuum Again

The "free" mycotoxins are then HEPA vacuumed up.



