

## How can mold get into our homes?

Mold growth is part of the environment and plays a role in breaking dead organic material down such as fallen leaves and dead trees. This should be avoided in our homes due to the health risks that it may pose.

Mold growth gets in our homes when mold spores land on damp surfaces within our homes and begins to start the growth of the mold. The key factor is that mold will not grow without water or moisture so keep an eye out for dampness within your homes and get the problem corrected before mold growth begins.



Please contact us with any questions and concerns that you may have involving mold in your home or someone you know that may be in danger. We would be happy to assist you in any way possible on mold and any other hazards that may be occurring in our community so just stop by the Environmental Office or contact us from the information below.

### **Mark Junker**

Tribal Response Coordinator

Office: 785-742-4706

Cell: 785-288-1321

[mark.junker@sacfoxenviro.org](mailto:mark.junker@sacfoxenviro.org)



### **Tribal Response Coordinator**

Environmental Department

Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas

And Nebraska

305 N Main Street reserve, KS 66434

P: 785-742-4706

O: 785-288-1321

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

### What health problems may persist with mold exposure?

- Allergy, Irritation
- Allergy symptoms that may occur: runny nose, itchy-watery eyes, coughing, sneezing, and throat irritation. More severe symptoms include more chronic conditions such as sinusitis and asthma.
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are produced during the degrading process of fungi. High exposure to VOCs can irritate the mucous membranes, central nervous system that lead to symptoms of headaches, decreased attention span, difficulty in concentration, and dizziness.



### Ways of controlling/helping to eliminate mold?

- Dehumidification: A dehumidifier should be used to reduce relative humidity if levels are 55% or higher. These devices as pictured below help to minimize toxic mold and other microbiological contaminates.



- Fix leaking water pipes and fixtures, wherever moisture is for prolonged periods allows for mold spores to land and begin their process.
- Roof leaking, waters leaking or building up condensation, walls becoming damp in basements, windows leaking etc. are all situations where mold can form and reducing the moisture content and getting new windows for example is a means of remediation to help fix the issue before it's too late.

### Mold continued.....

- Having the proper ventilation in your home can reduce moisture in your home; you want to achieve having slightly higher levels in your home than the air outside.
- One of the most important things to remember with mold is to know how the mold was formed. Ex: excess moisture, pipe leaking, roof leaking, windows leaking etc.
- According to the center for disease control, " The center for disease control and prevention states molds are found in virtually every environment and can be detected both indoors and outdoors, year round."

\*\*Again if you need any assistance with knowing more about mold and the hazards involved please feel free to contact us and leave a message if we are out of the office and unable to answer you call\*\*