

General Statement on Mold

MOLD OVERVIEW – CONCLUDED FROM RESEARCH

Mold is one of the biggest enemies in our homes today. Molds are simple microscopic organisms called “Fungi” that are found in the environment. The majority of molds live in plant or animal matter and are necessary for life on earth. Mold is in fact, the method by which nature cleans up unwanted matter on earth. Mold has existed since the earth was formed. It is only now, due to our improved tighter construction methods, that moisture is being trapped in our homes, causing mold growth problems. It is not necessary to spend time or money to identify the specific type of mold present; most customers consider all molds bad.

There are 3 basic categories of mold that are of interest to the ceramic tile industry:

(1) Superficial, which is a maintenance issue.
(2) Chronic existing mold, which requires professional mold remediation help, and
(3) Potential mold, which is the main area of our concern. Preventing moisture intrusion will prohibit mold growth in the area of the tile installation. Mold requires 4 elements to grow:

1. Mold Spores
2. Temperature
3. Food source
4. Moisture

The only requirement in the tile installation that can be controlled is moisture availability. Moisture control is, in fact, mold control.

WHAT TO DO WHEN MOLD IS DISCOVERED ON THE JOB

When you discover existing mold in an installation you must:

1. **STOP. DO NOT** proceed. Stop all work immediately.
2. Notify all appropriate contractors/owners involved with the job. A mold remediation expert should be hired. The liability of mold or its remediation is not the responsibility of the tile installer.
3. Do not proceed with the job until ALL parties have signed off that the mold situation is addressed properly and that all concerns were satisfied.
4. To prevent mold from reoccurring, all tile assemblies should be installed carefully and correctly, including but not limited to using mold resistant materials. Moisture control products can be utilized to prevent any moisture from penetrating the tile work and possibly re-activating the mold.

