

# THE TOXIGENIC MOLD GENRE



Toxic mold is described as something poisonous causing serious harm or death. Toxigenic is described as producing poisonous substances - as in a toxic mold genre.

Stachybotrys commonly known as “Black Mold” when reported in the media is of a known toxic mold genre. There are other toxic molds, however, this name is synonymous with everything bad we read about. Stachybotrys’ growth pattern is such that it usually grows heavy and will thrive in damp, dark, and concealed areas, so if this growth pattern is visible...it may be just the tip of the ice burg!

Characteristically, this toxic mold genre needs a wet environment and soft cellulose materials to feed on and grow. Commonly found behind finished basement walls or the baseboard trim. It vary rarely gets airborne unless physically disturbed and will quickly fall back to the ground. Contaminated surfaces will need to be removed and disposed of, while other surfaces with allergenic or pathogenic molds can usually be wiped clean and treated without removal.

This type of toxic mold growth is usually over looked by mold inspectors and testing for this mold presents a unique situation since it does not readily get airborne and typically will not show up in air test results. Finding and identifying Stachybotrys and other toxic molds require diligence on the part of the mold tester. If the home or facility is occupied, interviewing occupants for mold related symptoms can help. But most important is the visual inspection and the testers knowledge of how and where this type of mold will grow. Lift tape or swab testing may be required to identify this mold.

## MOLD REMEDIATION PROTOCOL TIP SHEET