



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MOLD CLEANING, SANITIZING, DISINFECTING

BLEACH USE..... YES OR NO?

Bleach is cheap, convenient and has been recommended by the EPA on mold as well as sewage-related projects. However, AET does NOT recommend bleach use to either home owners or professional restoration contractors.

Here is why.....

1. Bleach use has serious health concerns. It's vapors can irritate the skin, eyes and upper respiratory tract even when used in well ventilated areas. Direct liquid contact with the eyes can cause serious damage.
2. Even when diluted at least 10-1 with water, appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles and respirators should be worn. Bleach should never be used undiluted.
3. Bleach is highly reactive and can discolor and damage many fabrics.
4. Bleach is corrosive and can damage stainless steel, aluminum, copper, brass, marble or granite. Bleach is so strong that it will etch glass if it is not neutralized after applications on surfaces such as mirrors or windows. Bleach can also corrode electrical components.
5. Bleach is dangerous and should never be mixed with acids or ammonia which can release chlorine gas as well as nitrogen trichloride and hydrazine. Mixing of bleach in unknown environments such as a sewage spill or fire can release these gases.
6. Bleach is only efficient to remove surface mold on non-porous material but cannot penetrate beneath the surface on wood or drywall and kill the mold route. The water component of bleach can be absorbed into these materials providing more moisture for the mold to feed on.
7. Bleach solutions must be removed/rinsed off or may provide an additional health hazards for highly sensitive persons.

Mold remediation professionals must be careful to evaluate all the chemicals (cleaners, sanitizers, disinfectants) based on their Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in comparison to the locations and substrates where mold/sewage must be removed as well as the individual sensitivity of the occupants who may reside in the work areas following completion of remediation activities. Training and proper use of personal protective equipment of workers involved in the remediation process is also paramount.

When you need professional mold advice email Alan Sutherland, CIH, CHMM at a.sutherland@aetinc.biz or call 610-891-0114. We provide nationwide services; phone consultations are free. Check out the full range of environmental contracting/consulting services on our website www.aetinc.biz.

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