



# Valor Mold Removal Info Series - 1

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## I found mold! Now what?

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Discovering mold is always unwelcome and a little disturbing. First, don't freak out. Fleeing the house or hiring the first mold guy you get your hands on is going to get you ripped off. Take your time. Interview companies and see what their solutions are. Then decide what's best for you. And most of the info on the internet is either *trying* to make you panic, not helpful or simply not applicable to your situation.



Mold behind a bathroom vanity that was hidden by cleaning supplies.  
Cause? Foundation leak in the next room.

### What is mold doing in my house?

You have some sort of water problem. Leaks, condensation, high humidity...all make microscopic mold spores grow into visible mold colonies. Mold is nature's recycling program to reclaim dead plants...which is what we build our houses out of. Framing. Trusses. Plywood. The paper in drywall. Paneling. All of these are made from dead trees.

### So how do we stop the Cycle of Life from eating my house?

Fix the water problem. I could do the best remediation in the world but if the water problem isn't fixed, the mold *will* come back. But figuring out the problem is not easy. Fortunately for you, mold is my profession so I've probably seen your situation hundreds of times. If you send me 3 pictures, I can usually tell you what the cause is. Give me a call, send me some pictures and I'll start you on the path of getting your home back to normal.

## **Do I have the dreaded toxic black mold?**

Totally irrelevant. There is no “good” mold that grows in your house. The mold remediation standard (called the IICRC S-520) only has one removal method. We don’t treat one species of mold differently than another.

## **Will mold make me sick?**

Depends on your genetics. To an adult, mold can be an irritant, allergen, infectious agent or toxin. However, a 2011 study by the University of Cincinnati, funded by the NIH, HUD & EPA, found that infants exposed to mold were 3 times more likely to develop asthma by age 7.

## **What should I do until you get here?**

Treat it like a hornet’s nest and don’t mess with it. Shut off anything in the area that creates air movement (like HVAC registers or ceiling fans). If you see 5 square feet of mold or less, then you can cover it with plastic and seal the edges with tape.

## **What should I NOT do?**

- Don’t setup a fan or dehumidifier anywhere near the mold. It’s too late for that. You’ll just be spreading microscopic, odorless mold spores around your house and make your project more expensive.
- Don’t touch it. You’ll kick up clouds of mold spores that will get all over you and settle on everything in the area.
- Don’t tear the mold out. Many times, the mold you see is just the “tip of the iceberg.” You’ll get in way over your head and kick up tremendous numbers of mold spores. These mold spores then float into areas that didn’t have mold before (called cross-contamination).
- Don’t spray the mold with anything. It will affect the mold’s coloring which makes it *much* harder for me to judge your situation. And...you guessed it...you will stir up mold spores.