

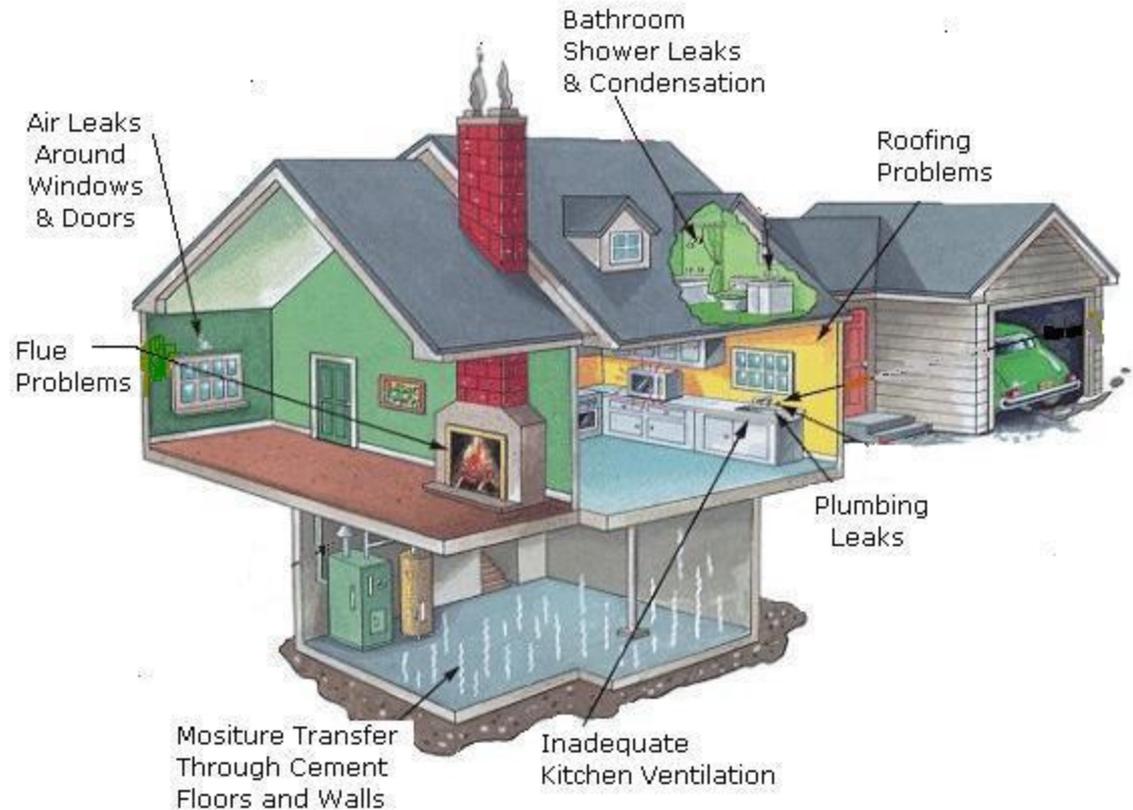
# MOLD: A GROWING CONCERN

- Protect your biggest investment
- Live healthier
- Because you're not only buying a home, you're also buying the air in it.



# Did You Know?

- Most people spend as much as 90% of their time indoors and are not aware of the health hazards created by mold.

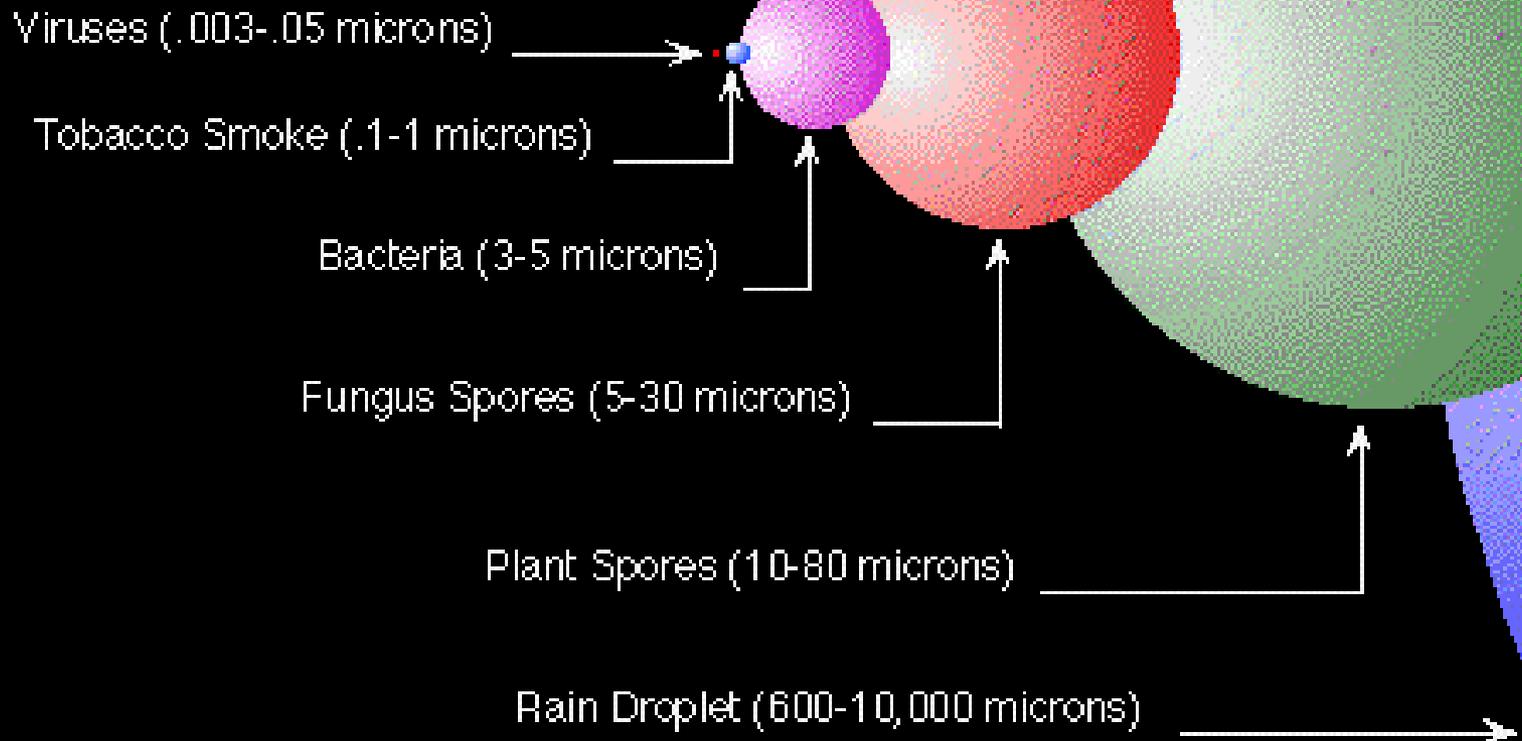


# What is Mold? What is a Mold Spore?

- Mold eats and destroys normal building materials used in your home when they get wet
- Mold reproduces and spreads by shedding microscopic mold spores in the air
- Mold spores travel through the air and we breathe them in – sometimes in large enough amounts that are unhealthy.
- Indoor mold types that can damage your home and health include:
  - Aspergillus / Penicillium / Trichoderma
  - Stachybotrys / Chaetomium / Ulocladium
  - Cladosporium / Alternaria / Curvularia

## Relative Size Scale of Particles in the Air

**Mold spores are extremely small when airborne  
can be inhaled**



## What does mold do when growing in buildings?

- Ruin building materials
- Destroy personal possessions
- Can cause allergies
- Can trigger asthma

# Mold Facts you need to know

- Water is the problem, mold is the result of excess water
- Mold can grow and produce spores in as little as 24 – 48 hours
- Most thrive in temperatures we feel comfortable in
- Airborne mold can be inhaled
- Presence of mold growth can impact your health, at home, the office or school

# How can I be exposed Mold?

- Breathing in spores from air
- Skin contact from handling moldy items
- Eating moldy foods
- Contact with moldy clothing, carpet, drapes, furniture, fabric & leather

# Health Effects of Mold Exposure

- **Allergic Reaction (Most Common)**
  - Caused by inhalation or direct contact with mold
- **Asthma (Second Most Common)**
  - Mold spores can trigger an attack and make asthma worse
- **Hypersensitivity**
  - Developed after acute or chronic exposure
- **Opportunistic Infections**
  - Cause disease in rare circumstances

## RED FLAGS: WHEN & WHERE TO TEST

If you answer **YES** to any of the following questions, it is recommend you **TEST** right away.

# Have you had recent indoor water event?

- 50% of all homes have been water compromised (even brand new homes)
- Common causes:
  - Recent severe storm (wind and rain)
  - Construction defects
  - Poor filtration in HVAC
  - Plumbing problems
  - Improper insulation, ventilation or grading
  - Basement floods or leaks
  - Roof /ceiling leaks
  - Presence of items that are damaged by water

# Have you seen visible mold?

- Any substance growing that looks:
  - Velvety
  - Slimy
  - White
  - Black
  - Green
  - Pink
  - Smelly
  - Discoloration



# Where to Check for Visible Mold

- Bathroom
  - Around the bathtub or shower
  - Around & Under sink
  - Under & Behind Toilet
  - Around bathroom vanity
- Kitchen
  - Around & Under the sink where leakage might occur
  - Behind and Under Refrigerator
- Floors, wall cavities and ceilings directly above or below a bathroom or kitchen
- Attic & Basement Spaces
- Laundry Area
- Around Water Heater
- Around & Inside AC Unit & Vents
- Garage (Especially when directly attached to entrance of home)
- Clothing
- Carpet & Rugs
- Behind vinyl wall coverings
- Surface walls behind furniture

# Places You Might Not Have Checked



# Do You Experience Any Sensitivity?

- Exposure to mold is known to cause:
  - Itching or irritation of the eyes, nose, throat or skin.
  - Burning sensation on skin or rashes
  - Sinus infections or congestion (runny nose)
  - Musty odor
  - Respiratory problems (sneezing or coughing)
  - Frequent or onset headaches or migraines
  - Changes in breathing patterns
  - Fatigue



# Why You Should Test?

- To answer the question, “Do I have a hidden mold growing in my home?”
- To know what kind of mold you may have
- To avoid unseen potential health risks
- To maintain the healthy state of your home
- To solve building defects such as dry rot, warping and deterioration of your home
- To avoid future expense of a massive remediation
- Peace of mind when buying or selling a house

# Mold Testing Made Simple

- Your home inspector has been trained and educated by PRO-LAB<sup>®</sup> to collect the appropriate samples
- Your home inspector will take one air sample per 1000 square feet, including a control sample outside
- Your home inspector will also collect a swab or tape sample from any visible mold growth
- You will get a quick and accurate results
- You do not have to do anything, your home inspector will take care of everything for you

# CONCLUSION

- Protect your property and possessions
- Identify the **RED** Flags that can indicate a water problem
- The value of testing is that it identifies and determines the cause of a mold problem
- Testing is the first step in correction of a mold problem
- Be proactive and find problems before they get large and expensive
- Mold testing is not a real estate deal breaker – it can be cleaned

# PRO-LAB<sup>®</sup> Solutions

- PRO-LAB<sup>®</sup> is an American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) accredited laboratory
- PRO-LAB<sup>®</sup> is an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory
- PRO-LAB<sup>®</sup> has a PhD Mycologist on staff to answer your questions and help guide your solutions
- Fast turnaround times that fit your needs
- Easy to read laboratory mold reports