

**General Information
Mold & Mildew
Addendum**



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What is Mold?

Mold is a plant belonging to the Fungi group. In short mold is a type of fungus. It occurs naturally in the environment, and it is necessary for the natural decomposition of plant and other organic material. It spreads by means of microscopic spores borne on the wind, and is found everywhere life can be supported. Due to the fact mold spores are present in all types of environments, motorhome construction is not, and cannot be, designed to exclude mold spores. If the growing conditions are right, mold can grow in the motorhome. Most people are familiar with mold growth in the form of bread mold, and mold that may grow on bathroom tile. Mold spores, as they grow, can leave a musty odor, discolor fabric, and stain surfaces as well as cause considerable damage.

What does mold need to grow?

Being a plant, mold will need a food source in order to grow. Mold can use a variety of organic materials such as fabric, carpet or even wallpaper, or building materials, such as wood and insulation, to name a few. Grease films contain many nutrients for mold spores to grow when moisture and temperatures are right. Soil on dirty items such as fabrics and furniture may supply enough nutrients for mold to grow. Many of the synthetic fabrics such as acetate, polyester, acrylic and nylon are mildew resistant. However, soil on these fabrics may supply the nutrients to start mold growth.

Mold growth requires a temperate climate. The best growth occurs at temperatures between 40° F and 100° F. Finally, mold growth requires moisture. Moisture is a mold growth factor that can be controlled. By minimizing moisture inside the motorhome, mold growth can be reduced or eliminated.

Moisture in a motorhome can have many causes. Spills, leaks, overflows, condensation, and high humidity, to name a few. Good housekeeping and regular maintenance practices are essential in the effort to prevent or eliminate mold growth. If moisture is allowed to remain on a growth medium, mold can develop within 24 to 48 hours.

Consequences Of Mold:

All mold, is not necessarily harmful, but certain strains of mold have been shown to cause, in susceptible persons, allergic reactions, including skin irritation, watery eyes, runny nose, coughing, sneezing, congestion, sore throat and headache. Individuals with suppressed immune systems may risk infections. Some experts contend that mold causes serious symptoms and diseases which may even be life threatening. However, experts disagree about the level of mold exposure that may cause health problems, and about the exact nature and extent of the health problems that may be caused by mold. Moreover, the Center for Disease Control states that a casual link between the presence of toxic mold and serious health conditions has not been proven

Standards or threshold limit values for concentration of mold or mold spores have not been set. Currently, there are no EPA regulations or standards for airborne mold contaminant's. There is simply no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment. For example, studies have shown that ozone cleaners are not effective at killing airborne mold or surface mold contamination.

What Can Be Done:

The owner can and should reduce or eliminate the occurrence of mold growth in the motorhome, and thereby minimize any possible adverse effects that may be caused by mold, by taking the following steps:

1. Check for signs of mold prior to bringing items in the motorhome. Potted plants (roots and soil), furnishings, or stored clothing and bedding material, as well as many other household goods, may already contain mold growth.
2. Regular vacuuming and cleaning will help reduce mold levels. Mild bleach solutions and most tile cleaners are effective in eliminating or preventing mold growth.

3. Indoor humidity can be reduced by 30-60% when venting clothes dryer to the outdoors. Ventilating the kitchen and bathroom by opening the windows, by using exhaust fans, or a combination of both. Operating the air conditioning will remove excess moisture in the air, and help facilitate evaporation of water from wet surfaces.
4. Promptly clean up spills, condensation and other sources of moisture. Thoroughly dry any wet surfaces or material. Do not let water pool or stand in the motorhome. Promptly replace any materials that cannot be thoroughly dried.
5. Inspect for leaks on a regular basis. Look for discolorations or wet spots. Repair any leaks promptly. Inspect condensation pans (refrigerators and air conditions) for mold growth. Take notice of musty odors, and any visible signs of mold.
6. Should mold develop, thoroughly clean the affected area with a mild solution of bleach. First, test to see if the affected material or surface is color safe. Should the mold growth be severe, call on the services of a qualified professional cleaner.
7. If materials with mold on them cannot be cleaned, they should be removed and properly disposed.

Whether or not a motorhome owner experiences mold growth depends largely on how the motorhome is managed and maintained. As a manufacturer, our responsibility is limited to things that we can control. As explained in the written warranty, we will repair or replace defects in the construction (defects defined as a failure to comply with reasonable standards of motorhome construction) for the Limited Warranty coverage period provided.



NOTE: THE MANUFACTURER WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGES CAUSED BY MOLD THAT MAY BE THE CONSEQUENCE OF OR ASSOCIATED WITH DEFECTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION.



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