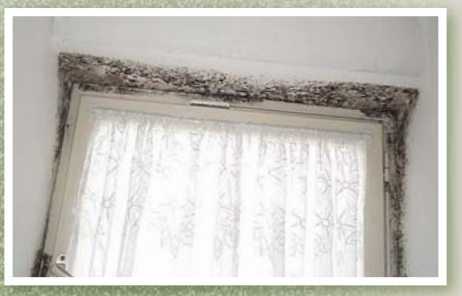
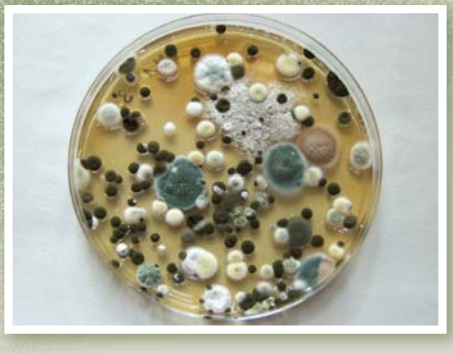
WHO GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
EUROPE



DAMPNESS AND MOULD



WHO guidelines for indoor air quality: dampness and mould

Keywords

AIR POLLUTION, INDOOR - adverse effects - prevention and control
FUNGI
HUMIDITY - adverse effects - prevention and control
ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE
RISK ASSESSMENT
GUIDELINES

ISBN 978 92 890 4168 3

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DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
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Edited by: Elisabeth Heseltine and Jerome Rosen.
Cover photos (from top): © Heger/Müller, © Szewzyk, © UBA, picture taken by Moriske.
Book design: Sven Lund.
Printed in Germany by Druckpartner Moser.

EUROPE

WHO guidelines for indoor air quality: dampness and mould

Abstract

Microbial pollution is a key element of indoor air pollution. It is caused by hundreds of species of bacteria and fungi, in particular filamentous fungi (mould), growing indoors when sufficient moisture is available. This document provides a comprehensive review of the scientific evidence on health problems associated with building moisture and biological agents. The review concludes that the most important effects are increased prevalences of respiratory symptoms, allergies and asthma as well as perturbation of the immunological system. The document also summarizes the available information on the conditions that determine the presence of mould and measures to control their growth indoors. WHO guidelines for protecting public health are formulated on the basis of the review. The most important means for avoiding adverse health effects is the prevention (or minimization) of persistent dampness and microbial growth on interior surfaces and in building structures.

Contents

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