

Myles F. Corcoran Construction Consulting, Inc.’s Statement on Mold



The health and well being of ourselves and our fellow citizens is fundamentally important to us. As Construction Professionals, it is of particular concern to us that the built environment be as safe as reasonably possible - given what we know.

Some of us are old enough to have seen chemical streams exiting factories, breathed clouds of “bug spray,” eaten the first round of the Salk Vaccine, worked on asbestos in the field, and pumped gas before they collected the fumes. We believe that as time goes on we will better understand all of the various relationships between us and our environment. In the present all we can do is pay attention and be careful to avoid known danger in our environments.

As consultants, we do not sidestep our position on molds to maintain our ability to argue either way.

We do not rely on attorneys and “experts” who propound innuendo and natural fear of the unknown to the public. In some instances this appears, to us, a purely pecuniary endeavor whose only purpose is to generate larger billings.

We do not rely on feelings as the final arbiter of whether or not “molds” pose a health risk.

We rely on the scientific and health professional communities to guide us.

It has been common knowledge in our society, and perhaps throughout the world, that dark, damp, air-starved habitats are unhealthy. Typically, such environments end up with visible mold colonies. Large colonies of molds, in and of themselves, may be related to some serious health issues, if not in most of us, then in those unfortunate people who are “exquisitely” sensitive.

At this time, to our knowledge, no solid evidence for this has been published.

What does get acknowledged, by most reputable sources, is allergic reactions in certain individuals. These symptoms are generally associated with respiratory function, such as shortness of breath and runny noses, but can also be associated with the skin.

As stated on the EPA web site: "Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals."

We have been going to seminars on mold and studying the known facts on the internet – focusing on reputable sources. The "facts" remain that the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), the [California Environmental Protection Agency \(Cal/EPA\)](#), and all other Public Health Agencies that we have investigated, all find that no proof of a certain relationship has been found between specific, serious, negative, health conditions and molds of any kind.

Common sense and what some of our parents told us dictates that mold, especially in large quantities, should be avoided, destroyed/cleaned up.

Serious scientific and health experts advise-as do some of our parents, that when mold is found, the water source should be eliminated and the mold should be removed.

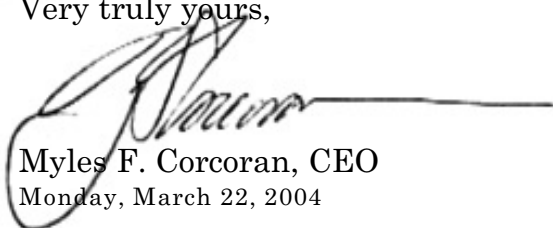
In fact it seems that those are the two things that everyone agrees on: stop the water and clean it up.

See the attached photo of what a large, multi-mold colony looks like. It is a great deal thicker and more widespread than what we typically find in the buildings we inspect. If you have mold to this extent, it is a serious problem and should be treated as such.

If, on the other hand, you find some mold growing on your cheddar cheese, under a damp dish towel left under the sink, or on a window sill wetted by condensation drips, then cut it off the cheese, wash the towel, and clean the sill with a normal, disinfecting household cleaner.

Remember: We humans have lived and prospered with these same molds in our environment for a very long time.

Very truly yours,



Myles F. Corcoran, CEO
Monday, March 22, 2004

