

Bleach Mold Myth Exposed

... and More

Some advertising has led people to believe that chlorine bleach effectively kills mold. This is NOT true! www.moldinspector.com/bleach-ineffective-mold.htm gives you the following four good reasons why:

1. It is too diluted and thus too weak to permanently kill mold unless the mold is simply sitting on top of a hard surface like a counter top or sink.
2. What little killing power chlorine bleach does have is diminished significantly as the bleach sits in warehouses and on grocery store shelves or inside your home or business [50% loss in killing power in just the first 90 days inside a never-opened jug or container]. Chlorine ions constantly escape through the plastic walls of the containers.
3. Chlorine bleach's ion structure also prevents chlorine from penetrating into porous materials such as dry wall and wood. It just stays on the outside surface, unable to reach mold's enzyme roots, growing inside the porous construction materials. When you spray porous surface molds with bleach, the water in the solution soaks into the wood while the bleach chemical sits on top of the surface, gasses off, and thus only partially kills the surface layer of mold, meanwhile the water penetration of the building materials fosters further mold growth.
4. **Chlorine Bleach is NOT registered with the EPA as a disinfectant to kill mold.** You can verify that important fact yourself when you are unable to find an EPA registration number for killing mold on the label of any brand of chlorine bleach.

In addition: The following disadvantages of using chlorine bleach were published in "[Bleach Usage](#)" on Facility-maintenance.com.

Chlorine bleach lacks the ability to cut through dirt. A surface or object being cleaned and disinfected must first be cleaned if bleach is going to be used as disinfectant, adding time and labor costs to any project. "Organic material readily inactivates these disinfectants, so the surface must be cleaned first," said one industry consultant. "You have to essentially double the time that it should take to clean and disinfect a soiled surface." **[In a 2004 study of five different household products to try to clean a moldy shower curtain, The Wall Street Journal recently reported that the least effective product was chlorine bleach.]**

More disadvantages of chlorine bleach are as follows:

- **Bleach loses strength rapidly:** Carol Bush, area manager for contract cleaner Central Property Services, Pittsburgh, said a bleach/water solution left on a shelf for any period of time will lose its effectiveness. At the same time, stated cleaning industry educator William Griffin, Cleaning Consultant Services Inc, Seattle, bleach loses its effectiveness quickly when being used, "gassing off" before most disinfecting can be accomplished.

- **Bleach can hide dirt:** The bleach can make some soil transparent, leading a cleaner to think he/she has actually cleaned a surface when in fact the soil remains there, said Michael Smith, academic custodial supervisor, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.
- **Bleach damages floor finishes:** Bleach attacks floor coatings, eating away at their luster.
- **Bleach damages fibers, carpets, etc.**
- **Bleach corrodes hard surfaces:** Metals and other surfaces cannot only be corroded, but discolored.
- **Bleach causes health concerns:** Improper use of bleach – either using too much or mixing it with certain products – such as those that contain ammonia hydrochloric acid, acetic acid and phosphoric acid – can create hazardous health conditions. [Another bleach health hazard: bleach can contaminate groundwater.]

These health concerns and environmental concerns are far-reaching due to a chemical byproduct of chlorine bleach called dioxin, the deadliest substance known to humankind! According to www.web.net/terrafemme/chlor.htm

Chlorine is the common link and root cause of many global environmental problems: widespread dioxin contamination, PCB pollution, DDT poisoning, human health effects from Agent Orange exposure, and ozone destroying CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons).

Chlorine is such a dangerous environmental toxin because it binds to organic matter to produce chemicals called organochlorines, almost all of which are foreign to nature. The majority of organochlorines are very stable; in other words, they will not break down in the environment for hundreds of years. This persistence is combined with the tendency of these chlorine-based poisons to bioaccumulate, meaning that over time they build up in the body fat of humans and other animals.

The government has been remiss in disseminating this information, but we feel it is imperative that you know this.

At Above Board we do not use chlorine bleach in our remediation protocols. If you have a mold problem, we can help. Please look through our website or call us.

Below are the cited links for the above information. Using these, you can further investigate the validity of this document and obtain a plethora of information through other links from those sites:

www.moldinspector.com/bleach-ineffective-mold.htm

www.web.net/terrafemme/chlor.htm

<http://library.thinkquest.org/27034/paper.html>