

### TENANTS CAN TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MOLD IN THEIR HOMES

Maintaining proper humidity is a key factor to preventing mold in homes. Mold is mainly associated with bathrooms because of the damp and warm nature of the environment but mold can also grow on walls in closets or rooms that do not have adequate ventilation. A humidity level of 60% or less is ideal.

The use of ventilating fans in bathrooms significantly reduces the risk of mold growth. Open windows, even a crack, can assist in good airflow to discourage mold.

Rooms without heat are prone to mold, so keeping consistent temperatures is important in the winter, some source of heat should be present in each room.

Once mold is noticed, it can be easily treated to avoid a major clean up. A mixture of 3 parts water to one part bleach will treat most surfaces. Tilex or a similar brand of cleaner is another good treatment for showers and tile surfaces. Mold loves grouting; so don't give it a chance to even get started.

Paint can be treated with a blend of bacteriocide and moldicide in semi-gloss exterior quality latex paint to further prevent mold growth. The surface must be thoroughly cleaned and dried prior to the application of paint.

Mold and mildew that tenants cannot control or treat should be reported immediately.