

PREPARED FOR: ALLY PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

TEST ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

Introduction

All spores found in indoor air are also normally found in outdoor air because most originate or live in the soil and on dead or decaying plants. Therefore, it is not unusual to find mold spores in indoor air. This Mold Glossary is only intended to provide general information about the mold found in the samples that were provided to the laboratory.

Alternaria

Outdoor Habitat: One of the most commonly observed spores in the outdoor air worldwide, normally in low numbers.

Indoor Habitat: Capable of growing on a wide variety of substrates and manufactured products found indoors when wetted.

Allergy Potential: Type I (hay fever, asthma), Type III (hypersensitivity pneumonitis), Common cause of extrinsic asthma

Disease Potential: Not normally considered a pathogen, but can become so in immunocompromised persons.

Toxin Potential: Several known

Comments: One of the most common and potent allergens in the indoor and outdoor air. Seen in indoor air in low concentrations, probably as a result of outdoor air infiltration and/or recycling of settled dust.

Ascospores

Outdoor Habitat: Soil and decaying vegetation, dead and dying insects. These spores constitute a large part of the spores in the air and can be found in the air in very large numbers in the spring and summer, especially during and up to three (3) days after a rain.

Indoor Habitat: Very few of fungi that produce ascospores grow indoors. Some fungi that produce ascospores are recognizable by their spores and when observed are listed under their own categories. Wetted wood and gypsum wallboard paper

Allergy Potential: Depends on the type of fungus producing the ascospores.

Disease Potential: Not normally pathogenic as a group

Toxin Potential: None known

Comments: Ascospores are produced from a very large group of fungi. Notable ascospores that are considered problematic for indoor environments are Chaetomium, Peziza, and Ascotracha. If these types of ascspores are observed they will be listed in the report under their own names.

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Basidiospores

- Outdoor Habitat:** These are mushroom spores and are common everywhere, especially in the late summer and fall.
- Indoor Habitat:** Very wet wood products, especially on footer plates, basements, and crawlspaces. Sometimes mushrooms can be observed growing in potted plants indoors.
- Allergy Potential:** Rarely reported, but some Type I (hay fever, asthma) and Type III (hypersensitivity pneumonitis) has been reported.
- Disease Potential:** None known
- Toxin Potential:** None known
- Comments:** This group includes wood rotting fungi, including dry rot (*Serpula* and *Poria*) that are especially destructive to buildings. However, if these types of spores (dry rot group) are observed in the sample they are listed under their own names on the report.
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Bipolaris/Drechslera

- Outdoor Habitat:** Commonly observed spores in the outdoor air worldwide, normally in low numbers.
- Indoor Habitat:** Wetted wood and gypsum wallboard paper
- Allergy Potential:** Type I (hay fever, asthma)
- Disease Potential:** Opportunistic pathogen in immunocompromised persons, not normally a pathogen in healthy individuals.
- Toxin Potential:** None known
- Comments:** This category represents at least three genera, including *Bipolaris*, *Drechslera*, and *Exserohilum*. This group cannot be consistently separated by spore morphology alone.
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Cercospora

- Outdoor Habitat:** Parasitic on leaves
- Indoor Habitat:** Not known to grow indoors
- Allergy Potential:** None known
- Disease Potential:** None known
- Toxin Potential:** None known
- Comments:** Easily dispersed by wind
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Chaetomium

Outdoor Habitat: Commonly found on paper products, soil, decaying vegetation, wood and natural fiber textiles (such as jute-backed carpets, canvas, etc.). They are rarely identified in outdoor air.

Indoor Habitat: Wetted wood and gypsum wallboard paper, paper products, canvas, etc.

Allergy Potential: Type I (hay fever, asthma) potential. However, no allergens have yet been characterised. However, two potential allergens have been isolated.

Disease Potential: Rarely reported as human pathogen.

Toxin Potential: Several known

Comments: Chaetomium is found nearly 50% of the time on wetted gypsum board (paper-coated sheet rock). Can be disseminated by insects, wind and water splash, etc. Improper or incomplete remediation can result in post-remediation samples where Chaetomium spores are found in higher amounts than the original samples (pre-remediation) because when Chaetomium is dried out the spores can be easily disseminated.

Cladosporium

Outdoor Habitat: Cladosporium is one of the most common environmental fungi observed worldwide. Soil and decaying vegetation.

Cladosporium herbarum and C. cladosporioides are among the most frequently encountered species, both in outdoor and indoor environments

Indoor Habitat: Wetted wood and gypsum wallboard paper, paper products, textiles, rubber, window sills

Allergy Potential: Type I (hay fever, asthma) - an important and common outdoor allergen

Disease Potential: Opportunistic pathogen in immunocompromised persons, not normally a pathogen in healthy individuals. Cladosporium are some of the most common species reported as indoor contaminants, occasionally linked to health problems.

Toxin Potential: Two known, but not highly toxic

Comments: The most commonly reported spore in the outdoor air worldwide. An important and common allergen source.

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Curvularia**Outdoor Habitat:** Soil and decaying vegetation**Indoor Habitat:** Wetted wood and gypsum wallboard paper, many cellulytic substrates**Allergy Potential:** Type I (hay fever, asthma), common cause of allergenic rhinitis**Disease Potential:** Potential human pathogen in immunocompromised people**Toxin Potential:** None known**Comments:** None***Epicoccum*****Outdoor Habitat:** Epicoccum is a widespread cosmopolitan that grows on dead or decaying organic matter, wood, textiles, paper, a variety of foods, insects and human skin. It is commonly found in the soil. Epicoccum spores are more prevalent on dry, windy days, with higher counts late in the day.**Indoor Habitat:** Capable of growing on a wide variety of substrates and manufactured products found indoors when wetted such as gypsum board, floors, carpets, mattress dust, and house plants.**Allergy Potential:** Type I (hay fever, asthma)**Disease Potential:** None known**Toxin Potential:** None known**Comments:** Very common in outdoor air in the summer months, especially in the midwest USA during harvest times.***Ganoderma*****Outdoor Habitat:** Growing as a parasite on other plants and fungi, especially on trees, notably hardwoods**Indoor Habitat:** Does not normally grow indoors**Allergy Potential:** Type I (hay fever, asthma), rare**Disease Potential:** None known**Toxin Potential:** None known**Comments:** Extensively used as a Chinese herbal supplement

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Penicillium/Aspergillus

Outdoor Habitat: Soil and decaying vegetation, textiles, fruits. These spores are commonly observed and are a normal part of outside air.

Indoor Habitat: Wetted wood and gypsum wallboard paper, textiles, leather, able to grow on many types of substrates.

Allergy Potential: Type I (hay fever, asthma), Type III (hypersensitivity pneumonitis)

Disease Potential: Opportunistic pathogen in immunocompromised persons, not normally a pathogen in healthy individuals.

Toxin Potential: Several known

Comments: Extremely common in indoor air in low amounts. This type of spore should not constitute an overwhelming percentage and / or be present in very high numbers.

These two genera are grouped together because they cannot be reliably differentiated into their respective genera based solely on spore morphology.

Rusts

Outdoor Habitat: Parasitic on living plants

Indoor Habitat: Not known to grow indoors, unless on and infected living house plant

Allergy Potential: Type I (hay fever, asthma)

Disease Potential: None known

Toxin Potential: None known

Comments: Common and abundant plant pathogen and are normally robust spores that can persist indoors, especially from carpets and dirty HVAC systems

Smut/Myxomycetes

Outdoor Habitat: Soil and decaying vegetation and wood, especially dead stumps and bark

Indoor Habitat: Not known to grow indoors, sometimes found on firewood

Allergy Potential: Type I (hay fever, asthma), rare

Disease Potential: None known

Toxin Potential: None known

Comments: These two groups are difficult to distinguish due to their "round, brown" morphology. Smuts are especially common in the environment and can be seen in indoor air samples even during the winter in homes because the spores can get trapped in carpets
