IAQ | AWP Home Inspections, LLC

Mold and Fungi | Interpretation



Interpretation of Mold Spore Concentrations:

High variability in outdoor mold spore concentrations and distribution exists on a daily to hourly basis and is dependent on local vegetation and micro-climate, the time of year, local weather patterns, and diurnal variation.

As a result, caution must be used when simultaneously comparing limited data sets of inside and outside concentrations over-generalizing any set of data.

*NOTE: Total Fungi Count on your report indicates if your home is considered a "Clean" building

Typical Outdoor Mold Spore Concentration Ranges								
Description	Spores (cts/m ³)	Predominant Types *						
Arid / desert regions	50 - 5,000	Cladosporium, asco/basidospores Alternaria, Penicillium, Aspergillus						
Urban & coastal strip	200 - 10,000	Cladosporium, asco/basidospores Alternaria, Penicillium, Aspergillus						
Inland valley & native vegetation	500 - 20,000	Cladosporium, asco/basidiospores Penicillium, Aspergillus						
Farms & heavy forestation	5,000 - 50,000	Cladosporium, asco/basidiospores Alternaria, Penicillium, Aspergillus						

·Genus/category listed in order of decreasing concentration frequency

Typical Indoor Mold Spore Conc	entration Ranges	
Description	Spores (cts/m ³)	Predominant Types *
"Clean" building	less than 2,000	Total for all spore types
	less than 700	Penicillium, Aspergillus
Possible Indoor Amplification	1,000 - 5,000	Penicillium, Aspergillus, Cladosporium
Indoor Amplification likely present	5,000 - 10,000	Penicillium, Aspergillus, Cladosporium
Chronic Indoor Amplification	10,000 - 500,000	Penicillium, Aspergillus, Cladosporium
Inadequate flood cleanup or active	50,000 - 10,000,000	Penicillium, Aspergillus, Stachybotrys,
Indoor demolition of contaminated		Cladosporium, Chaetomium, Basiomycetes
surfaces		Tricoderma, Ulocladium, etc.

The tables given above can serve as a guide to evaluating the relative degree of indoor airborne mold spore amplification.

Potential health effects from inhalation of mold and fungal spores:

At present, it is generally accepted in the medical community that exposure to mold may result in symptoms consistent with a cold, flu, allergy hay fever, or asthma in some people. Others have no symptoms at all. It is also generally accepted that there are no long term or permanent health effects from exposure to mold once the occupant is removed from the property. It is also generally recognized in the medical community, that those who are known to be allergic to molds and those with asthma may have a higher risk of allergic reactions and should take extra precautions when in such situations

General Rule-

- Total indoor airborne spore concentrations in a typical clean HVAC-supplied building are less than the "average" regional outside concentrations, and/or less than approximately 1,500 cts/m3
- Aspergillus /Penicillium and other hyaline spores are on average less than 700 cts/m3

Indicator fungi such as Stachybotrys, Chaetomium, Ulocladium are often recovered in low concentrations in indoor samples as a result of normal infiltration, therefore, automatically assuming there is indoor growth when low concentrations of any indicator species are detected is inappropriate.

Remember, there is always a likely exception to every rule or generalization, and because there is no direct relationship between simultaneously collected indoor and outdoor samples, performing a direct comparison with limited sampling is often misleading. The range of expected variability (i.e. a factor of 5 to 10 fold differences) when comparing limited data sets must also be considered.

Outdoor assemblage of molds:

Outdoor assemblages of mold spores are most commonly populated with over 90% of the following spores (listed in approximate order of descending abundance):

- Cladosporium
- Mushroom-like fungi (Ascospores and Basidiospores)
- Alternaria
- Rusts and Smuts (colonizing primary flower and leaf parts)
- Aspergillus & Penicillium (soil and moist cellulosic surfaces).

All of the above-mentioned spores colonize decaying vegetation and/or soil.

Indoor Assemblage of Molds:

The most common molds susceptible to indoor amplification (over 90% of the typical mold growth) in approximate order of descending abundance include:

- Penicillium
- Aspergillus (flavus, fumigatus, terrus, versicolor, niger)
- Cladosporium
- Stachybotrys
- Alternaria, Chaetomium
- Zygomycetes (Mucor & Rhizopus)
- Ulocladum, Trichoderma
- Basidiomycete fungi

Mold and Fungi

When moisture intrusion becomes chronic and/or involves sewage contamination, tertiary mold growth such as Stachybotrys, Chaetomium, and Ulocladum may become common along with increased concentrations of bacteria. Chronic moisture can also initiate the colonization of wood-destroying fungi. Over time, these kinds of fungi will colonize and destroy structural wood components of a building and can result in very high indoor airborne basidiospore concentrations.

EXAMPLE A:

	SWENTReport AIT-O-C: 🖓 An	arysis of runga	Topores & Particul	ates (Niethods M	ICRO-SOP-201 AST	W 117.33 11	
	Particle Identification	Raw Count	(Count/m°)	% of Total	Interpretat	ion Guideline	
162407022-0001	Alternaria (Ulocladium)	-	-	-			
	Ascospores	2	40	4			
Client Sample ID	Aspergillus/Penicillium++	7 40	100 840	10 84		0	
37902973	Basidiospores Bipolaris++	40	640	04			
	Chaetomium++	-					
Location	Cladosporium	1	20	2			
Exterior	Curvularia		-				
	Epicoccum	-	-				
Sample Volume (L)	Fusarium++	-	-				
150	Ganoderma	-	-	•			
150	Myxomyceles++ Pithomyces++	-	-				
Sample Type	Rust		-				
	Scopulariopsis/Microascus		-				
Background	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella	-	-				
Comments	Unidentifiable Spores	-	-	-			
	Zygomycetes	-	-				
	Torula++		-	•			
	Total Fungi	50	1000	100			
	Hyphal Fragment Insect Fragment		-				
	Pollen		-				
Analytical Sens		er .	Skin Fragmen	ts: 1 1 to 4	(low to high)		
Annah Alami Garaciti	ivity 300x *: 7* counts/cubic met	er	Fibrous Particula		(low to high)		
Anaryucai Sensu	Not commonly fount Spores reported to t Potential for mycoto		with these fungi.	-	(low to high); 5 (ove	ed)]
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Spore Trap ASSESSI 162407022-0002 Client Sample ID 37902867 Location Bedroom Sample Volume (L) 75 Sample Type Inside Comments	Not commonly fount spores reported to t Potential for mycolo These fungi are con MENTReport ¹¹¹ Air-O-Cell(¹¹⁴) Ana Particle Identification Alternaria (Ulocladium) Ascospores Aspergillus/Penicillium++ Basidiospores Bipolaris++ Chaetomium++ Cladosporlum Curvularia Epicoccum Fusarium++ Ganoderma Myxomycetes++ Pithomyces++ Ruet Scopulariopsis/Microascus Stachybotrys/Memnoniella Unidentifiable Spores Zygomycetes Torula++ Total FungJ Hyphal Fragment Insect Fragment Pollen	d growing indoors, spi be able to cause allery ixin production exists sidered water damage dysis of Fungal S Raw Count 1 2 897 29 - - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - 4 7 - - 4 7 - - - -	ores likely come from out gies in individuals. with these fungi. e indicators. Spores & Particular (Count/m ³) 40 80 37900 1200 - - 2000 40 - - 2000 40 - - - 2000 40 - - 40 40 - - 40 40 40 - - - - 40 40 - - - -	tes (Methods MI % of Total 0.1 0.2 91.2 2.9 - 4.8 - 0.1 - - 0.5 0.1 - - - 0.5 0.1 - - - 0.1 100 - - - - - - - - - - - - -	ICON KEY INTERPRETATION INTERPRETATION Slightly Elevated ELEVATED Slightly Elevated	M D7391) on Guideline O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	spore type in you (key located at bo This line will id your home is co
Spore Trap ASSESSI 162407022-0002 Client Sample ID 37902867 Location Bedroom Sample Volume (L) 75 Sample Type Inside Comments Analytical Sensit	Not commonly fount spores reported to t Potential for mycolo These fungi are con MENTReport ¹¹¹ Air-O-Cell(¹¹⁴) Ana Particle Identification Alternaria (Ulocladium) Ascospores Aspergillus/Penicillium++ Basidiospores Bipolaris++ Chaetomium++ Cladosporlum Curvularia Epicoccum Flusarium++ Ganoderma Myxomycetes++ Pithomyces++ Rust Scopulariopsis/Microascus Stachybotrys/Mennoniella Unidentifiable Spores Zygomyceles Torula++ Total Fungi Hyphal Fragment Insect Fragment	d growing indoors, sp be able to cause allery exits arcduction exists : sidered water damage llysis of Fungal S Raw Count 1 2 897 29 - - 477 - 1 477 - 1 - 477 - 477 - 1 - - 477 - 1 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	ores likely come from out gies in individuals. with these fungi. e inficators. Spores & Particular (Count/m ³) 40 80 37900 1200 - - 2000 - 40 - 2000 - 40 - 2000 - 40 - 40 - 2000 40 - - 40 - 40 - 2000 - - 40 - 2000 - - 40 - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - 2000 - - - 2000 - - - 2000 - - - 2000 - - - 2000 - - - 2000 - - - 2000 - - - 2000 - - - - 2000 - - - - 2000 - - - - - 2000 - - - - - - - - - - - - -	tes (Methods Mi % of Total 0.1 0.2 91.2 2.9 - 4.8 - 0.1 - - - 0.5 0.1 - - - 0.5 0.1 - - - - 0.1 100 - - - - - - - - - - - - -	ICON KEY CRO-SOP-201, ASTM Interpretatio Slightly Elevated ELEVATED Slightly Elevated Slightly Elevated Slightly Elevated Slightly Elevated Slightly Elevated Slightly Elevated ELEVATED Slightly Elevated Slightly Elevated Slightly Elevated	M D7391) on Guideline O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	spore type in you (key located at bo This line will id your home is co

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EXAMPLE B:

	Particle Identification	Raw Count	(Count/m ²)	% of Total	Interpretation Guideline
162408996-0001	Alternaria (Ulocladium)	9	200	1.3	🐡 😓
	Ascospores	204	4300	27.5	
Client Sample ID	Aspergillus/Penicillium++	6	100	0.6	
3790 2790	Basidiospores	325	6860	43.8	
	Bipolaris++	•	-	-	
	Chaetomium++		-	-	
Location	Cladosporium	182	3840	24.5	
Exterior	Curvularia	-	-	-	
	Epicoccum	2	40	0.3	
Sample Volume (L)	Fusarium++	-	-	-	
	Ganoderma	1	20	0.1	
150	Myxomycetes++	10	210	1.3	A 🗭
	Pithomyces++		-	-	
Sample Type	Rust	-	-	-	
Devision	Scopulariopsis/Microascus		-	-	
Background	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella	-	-	-	
Comments	Unidentifiable Spores		-	-	
	Zygomycetes	-	-	-	
	Cercospora++	3	60	0.4	
	Nigrospora	1	20	0.1	*
	Total Fungi	743	15650	100	
	Hyphal Fragment	2	40	-	
	Insect Fragment	-	-	-	
	Pollen	24	510	-	00
	sitivity 600x: 21 counts/cubic mete itivity 300x *: 7* counts/cubic mete		Skin Fragmen Fibrous Particulal Backgroun	te: 1 1 to 4 (low	

Potential for mycotoxin production exists with these fungi.

Potential for mycotoxin production exists with these fur
These fungi are considered water damage indicators.

Spore Trap ASSESSMENTReportTM Air-O-Cell(TM) Analysis of Fungal Spores & Particulates (Methods MICRO-SOP-201, ASTM D7391)

	Particle Identification	Raw Count	(Count/m ^a)	% of Total	Interpretation	Guideline	· · ·
162408996-0002	Alternaria (Ulocladium)	-	-	-			
	Ascospores		-	-			Identifies the level of the
Client Sample ID	Aspergillus/Penicillium++	89	3800	90	ELEVATED		spore type in your building
3790 2952	Basidiospores	7	300	7.1	Acceptable		(key located at bottom left
	Bipolaris++			-			
	Chaetomium++	-	-	-			
Location	Cladosporium	2	80	1.9	Acceptable		
Living Room	Curvularia			-			
	Epicoccum	-	-	-			
Sample Volume (L)	Fusarium++	-		-			
	Ganoderma	-	-	-			
75	Myxomycstes++	1	40	0.9	Acceptable	A 🔅	
	Pithomyces++	-	-	-			
Sample Type	Rust	-	-	-			
Include	Scopulariopsis/Microascus	-	-	-			
Inside	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella			-			
Comments	Unidentifiable Spores	-	-	-			
	Zygomycetes	-	-	-			
	Cercospora++	-		-			
	Nigrospora	-	-	-			This line will identify if
	Total Fungi	99	4220	100	Acceptable		your home is considered
	Hyphal Fragment	2	80	-	Slightly Elevated		a "Clean Home"
	Insect Fragment	-	-	-			
	Pollen	-	-	-			
	tivity 600x: 42 counts/cubic mete		Skin Fragment		low to high)		
Analytical Sensitiv	vity 300x *: 13* counts/cubic mete	r	Fibrous Particulate		low to high)	(hoho	
			Background		low to high); 5 (overloa	P	
Acceptable Concen	ration at or below background				pares likely come from outside	с.	
Slightly Elevated Concent	ration above background			be able to cause aller oxin production exists	-		

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