

# KEEP THE HOME CLEAN & DRY BY CONTROLLING MOISTURE LEVELS

is the key to decrease mildew and mold growth that can develop around pipes and appliances that “sweat” or “drip” or “leak”

*Exposure to high concentrations of any type of mold can make people ill. Mold reproduces itself through spores when these conditions exist: Food sources (usually dead plant material), high humidity or moisture, and temperatures ranging between 40-100 degrees F. Mold growth can prematurely rot the wood structure of our homes.*

## Keep Your Home Dry--

- Fix plumbing leaks and seepage where water is getting into your house from outside.
- Put a plastic cover sheet over dirt in crawl spaces or dirt basement floors to prevent moisture from coming in from the ground.
- Use exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens to remove moisture to the outside (never into the attic or crawlspace). Vent clothes dryers to the outside.
- Turn off moisture producing appliances such as humidifiers and non-vented kerosene heaters if you notice moisture buildup on windows and other surfaces.
- Use dehumidifiers and air conditioners during hot humid periods to reduce moisture in the air, but be sure to keep these appliances clean so the appliances themselves don't become sources of biological pollutants.

## Keep Your Home Clean--

- Keep all food properly covered and stored in well ventilated, dry cupboards, closets and the refrigerator. Discard immediately any food that becomes moldy, and never eat moldy food.
- Do not let soiled, wet, or damp clothing, towels, and dish or wash clothes lie around and stretch out shower curtains. Clean soiled clothing as soon as possible. Keep closets, dresser drawers, and basements where clothing is stored clean and dry.
- Replace moldy shower curtains, or remove them and scrub well with a household cleaner and rinse before re-hanging them.
- If garden plants become moldy, wear protective gloves (which later can be washed and disinfected) and mask, and remove and discard completely and immediately in sealed plastic bags.

### ***What Should You Do if You Detect Active Mold Growth? --***

*Refer to Cornell Cooperative Extension's FACT SHEETS for details, however you must be very careful to protect yourself and contain the area being cleaned to prevent the spread of mold spores to non-affected areas.*

