

Bullseye Bulletin

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Mildew or Mold?



Mildew and mold are actually in the same family. Mildew is an early-stage of surface mold that stays on top of material. Mold is a broader, invasive fungus that grows deep roots into porous surfaces and can emit dangerous spores into the surrounding air. Identification and remediation are important to keep your family safe from mold that can exacerbate breathing issues. Although similar, there are some differences to help you identify mildew vs. mold.

Appearance: Mildew looks flat and powdery (white, gray, or yellow). Mold appears fuzzy, raised, or slimy (dark green, black, red, or brown).

Growth: Mildew stays on top of surfaces like shower walls or window sills. Mold digs deep into porous materials like drywall, wood, and carpet.

Health Risks: Mildew can cause mild coughing or sore throats. Mold triggers severe allergic reactions, asthma attacks, and long-term respiratory issues

Cleanup: Small patches of surface mildew are easily scrubbed away with vinegar or a household cleaner. Large or deep mold infestations often require professional mold remediation.

At Bullseye Home Inspections, we can test suspected organic growth to verify if it is mold by sending to an accredited lab for testing. In addition, we provide Air Quality testing, to ensure that the air you and your family are breathing is safe and clear from mold spores.

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