



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official: Senior Associate Vice President for Safety and Security

Responsible Office: Division of Safety and Security

Last Revised Date: February 14, 2017

MOLD

Policy Statement

It is the policy of George Washington University to recognize, evaluate and control the risk of exposure to mold and mold spores in university buildings. Members of the university community who observe or suspect the presence of mold in university buildings should immediately contact Health & Emergency Management Services.

Reason for Policy

The purpose of this policy is to inform the university community of the various causes and characteristics of mold growth, as well as the university's procedures for its safe and proper management.

Who is Governed by this Policy

Faculty, staff and students

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Policy

Fungi are present almost everywhere in indoor and outdoor environments. With high levels of humidity in the District of Columbia, university buildings are susceptible to mold growth, especially unprotected, older, and less watertight buildings. Mold has the potential to grow where there are sources of water, food, and physical space. Among other places, mold is usually found on drywall, insulation, and carpeting. Certain types of mold can produce toxins, which can cause allergic reactions and produce flu-like symptoms.

Any university member who discovers mold on any building component, furnishing or surface within a university building should immediately contact Health & Emergency Management Services. The university's Mold Management Program available from the Health & Emergency Management Services has developed procedures for the identification and removal of any visible and potentially hazardous mold. Any university member who discovers mold in an off-campus rented facility that does not belong to the university may contact Health & Emergency Management Services for an initial survey of the space. If the survey reveals the presence of mold or the space supports the potential for mold growth, then the Health & Emergency Management Services will make a recommendation to the property management company for the non-university rented facility.

The Health & Emergency Management Services provides technical assistance in the evaluation and mitigation of mold. Health & Emergency Management Services assists in the development of a campus mold abatement strategy, which includes determining abatement priorities; writing abatement contracts; supervising abatement contractors; monitoring environmental and occupational mold levels before, during and after abatement; collecting and disposing of waste; and complying with applicable regulations.

Removal procedures will vary depending on the location and extent of visible mold contamination. In general, small areas of mold contamination can be cleaned and removed by trained in-house personnel. Larger areas contaminated with mold may require trained hazardous material abatement professionals.

This policy promotes the procedures set forth by the mold management program available from the Division of Safety and Security.

Related Information

[Environmental Protection Agency: Mold Resources](#)

[Occupational Health and Safety Administration \(OSHA\) Bulletin, Brief Guide to Mold in the Workplace](#)

[OSHA: Molds and Fungi](#)

Contacts

| Contact | Telephone | Email |
|--|----------------|--|
| Health & Emergency Management Services | (202) 994-4347 | safety@gwu.edu |

Document History

- **Last Reviewed Date:** February 14, 2017
 - **Last Revised Date:** February 14, 2017
 - **Policy Origination Date:** September 2003
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Who Approved This Policy

Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer

This policy, as well as all [university policies](#), are located on the [Office of Compliance and Privacy](#)'s home page.