

What you need to know about Bleach-Biocides in treating mold...

The use of biocides, such as chlorine bleach, is not recommended as a routine practice during mold remediation...Biocides are toxic to humans....

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Government, Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings, 402-K-01_001 September 2008, pg 18



Inappropriate remediation like painting over water-damaged materials, adding air fresheners in areas to mask musty odors, and applying disinfectants or biocides to damp or mold surfaces can cause further problems with building degradation and symptoms in occupants.



National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), U.S. Government, NIOSH Alert Publication 2013-102, Preventing Occupational Respiratory Disease from Exposures Caused by Dampness in Office Buildings, Schools and other Nonindustrial buildings, pg 13.

The use of biocides or chemical disinfectants is not recommended as these may be hazardous to occupants. Further, they do not always remove allergens, nor do they remove other metabolites (mycotoxins) from mold that can cause adverse reactions in some people.

Lastly, commonly used biocides do not effectively kill molds. For example, active fungal growth on a surface may produce a spore density of 1 million spores per square inch. Treating this site with a biocide that has an effectiveness of 99.99% would leave an estimated 10 viable spores per square inch. As such mold growth may recur.



American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), Facts about Mold, December 2011, pg 4,7

The use of gaseous, vapor-phase, or aerosolized biocides (including Bleach) for remedial purposes is NOT recommended. Using Biocides in this manner can pose health concerns for people in occupied spaces of the building and for people returning to the treated space. Furthermore, the effectiveness of these treatments is unproven and does not address the possible health concerns from the presence of the remaining non-viable mold.

New York City Department of Health, Guidelines on Assessment & Remediation of Fungi Indoor Environments, November 2008, www.nys.gov/health

Definition of Biocide/Fungicide: Chemicals that limit the growth of or kill microorganism such as fungi.

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