

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

FIGHTBACK

Fact sheet 4

It may be that none of these answers are a help, or some are helpful, but rarely all. It is important to read and determine which are best suited to your circumstance.

This is just the beginning a process. Any correspondence entered into should use evidence (photos, health reports etc) to support your concerns and you should review what the responsibilities are of landlords and local authorities so you know how best to target any comments (supported by said evidence) and to get a positive response. As satisfying as it can be, abuse in such correspondence can have a negative and even a detrimental effect causing resistance to your concerns, and a willingness to be obstructive on the part of parties representing the local authority or landlord. Consequently you should be mindful of this. Hopefully, you are already more than aware of this, nonetheless, it needs to be specified to avoid unnecessary complications to an already tough situation.

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/can-black-mold-kill-you>

Are landlords responsible for black Mould?

As a landlord, **it's both your legal responsibility and a duty of care to your tenants to make sure your property is free of damp and mould.** To do this properly, you need an expert to diagnose the problem and then, ideally, secure a fix that also has a quality warranty.^{24 Feb 2021}

What health problems can black Mould cause?

Moulds produce allergens (substances that can cause an allergic reaction), irritants and, sometimes, toxic substances. Inhaling or touching mould spores may cause an allergic reaction, such as **sneezing, a runny nose, red eyes and skin rash.** Moulds can also cause asthma attacks.

How long does a landlord have to fix mould?

You must allow them **at least 14 days** to let you know what they are going to do about the problems. If they don't respond or their response isn't satisfactory then it's time to contact the council using the online reporting form.

What are my rights as a tenant with mould?

Government guidance for tenants clearly states that if damp and mould growth or the chemicals that treat mould growth are a problem, **tenants can take action against their landlord**. Tenants no longer have to deal with the local authority – they can take a landlord to court directly. Clearly, currently most do not have the independent means, so first points of call should be, if they are any good, your local councillor.

Can you withhold rent for mould?

You don't have the right to withhold rent because of your landlord's failure to do repairs. If you withhold rent your landlord may start possession proceedings against you and put you at risk of eviction.

What are signs of mould sickness?

Signs and symptoms of allergic rhinitis caused by a mould allergy can include:

- Sneezing.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Cough and postnasal drip.
- Itchy eyes, nose and throat.
- Watery eyes.
- Dry, scaly skin.

What are the symptoms of black mould poisoning?

Symptoms of Black Mould Exposure

- Coughing.
- Postnasal drip.
- Sneezing.
- Dry, scaly skin.
- Itchy eyes, nose, or throat.
- Nasal congestion.

What are the signs of mould toxicity?

If you're sensitive to mould, you may experience the following symptoms:

- sneezing.
- nasal congestion.
- runny nose.
- skin rash.
- itching.
- watery eyes.
- asthma.
- chest tightness.
-

Can a landlord blame you for mould?

Up to the tenant to prove innocence

That's the most common cause for mould. If the tenant obtains a written report from a damp expert, stating that the problem isn't caused by heating or ventilation and it's actually because of a structural defect, then **the landlord will most likely be held responsible.**

Is it the landlords responsibility to get rid of mould?

Damp and mould problems need to be addressed by the landlord when they are either affecting the tenant's health and safety or are

caused by a problem to the property that can be taken care of by way of a repair.

How much compensation can I get for damp and mould?

More typically, compensation would be **between 25% and 50% of your rent**, according to legal experts. Still, tenants will have to shell out for the court fees unless they're entitled to free legal aid. You'll only get some of your costs back if you win your case.

Legal Aid is only available in rare and even more rare cases as the Tories close all such avenues of redress.

Are tenants required to sort out mould and damp problems?

In many cases, your landlord is responsible for dealing with rising damp. This is because there's a term implied into your tenancy agreement which says that it's their responsibility to keep the exterior and structure of your home in repair.

How do you treat black mould on internal walls?

How to Clean Mould on Walls in Three Steps

1. Simply mix one part bleach to four parts water.
2. Using a damp cloth gently scrub and wipe the mould until the mould is gone.
3. Once finished, dry the area well with a soft cloth.

Does mould make a house uninhabitable?

Moulds are fungi that need moisture and organic material to grow. When disturbed or dried out, they release spores that can cause illness in some people. They may also cause structural damage if left untreated. **Mould can cause a state of disrepair at rented premises.**

Can you sue for black mould?

If you have reason to believe your rental is contaminated with toxic black mould, and it has caused health problems, suing your landlord for black mould is one way to get compensated.

How do I know if mould in my house is making me sick?

Symptoms of mould exposure may include **headache, sore throat, runny nose, coughing, sneezing, watery eyes and fatigue**. In those with asthma, asthma attacks can occur. In those with impaired immune systems, serious infection can occur.

How long does it take for black mould to harm you?

This can happen **immediately or after exposure, depending on your body**. If you don't have a mould allergy, a one-time exposure may cause no symptoms. But sometimes, it can cause symptoms even if you're not allergic. Again, it's different for each person.

How long does it take to get sick from black mould exposure?

These symptoms usually first appear **2 to 9 hours after exposure** and last for 1 to 3 days. Other affected persons have progressive shortness of breath and cough, as well as weight loss. Work-relatedness may only become apparent over long holidays if symptoms resolve and then recur on return to work.

What kills black mould instantly?

For a natural solution for getting rid of black mould, **combine one part baking soda with five parts distilled white vinegar and five parts water in a spray bottle**. Alternatively, you can use a chemical-based mould and mildew remover, all-purpose cleaners, bleach or dish soap.

What are the mental effects of black mould?

Discovering Black Mould

Toxic mould exposure has also been linked to more serious, long-term effects like **memory loss, insomnia, anxiety, depression, trouble concentrating, and confusion.**

Can I test my body for mould at home?

Urine mycotoxin tests are ideal for testing yourself (and your family members) for mycotoxin exposure. They're absolutely painless, totally non-invasive, and incredibly easy to use. With just a small amount of urine, our experts will be able to spot up to 15 different illness-causing mycotoxins.

What does mould do to your brain?

Inflammation: Mould spores act as irritants, which can trigger the body to mount an immune response. This can lead to inflammation throughout the body. Inflammation in the brain can **impair cognitive function**, and in the case of chronic inflammation, this can lead to long-lasting cognitive impairment.

Will a chest x-ray show mould?

Imaging tests such as a chest X-ray or CT scan can help with diagnosis because **your doctor may be able to spot a nodule or fungal mass on your lung, caused by the mould**, that would prompt your doctor to do further testing. If they are still unsure, a tissue biopsy may be the best way to get a clear diagnosis

Is Black mould poisonous?

On the basis of current research, **black mould exposure is no more dangerous than any other type of mould exposure.** It is impossible to avoid exposure to mould — the spores are almost everywhere in the atmosphere. In high amounts or in people with allergies, exposure to any mould may cause allergy symptoms.

Poor insulation in Homes

Poor insulation is an issue with much of the older housing stock in Britain as they do not have sufficient insulation installed to eliminate draughts and stop damp emerging. Houses that were built before 1925 were constructed with solid walls but unfortunately, these needed insulating.

Is mould an emergency?

Mould can cause infections and exacerbate asthma or allergies. It also produces irritants and toxins, which can be dangerous to humans. Damp and mould could cause long-standing damage to a property, so **it's important to take them seriously and deal with them immediately.**

Is mould covered by contents insurance?

In most cases, mould damage is not covered by your home insurance. Mould and fungus growth are generally classified as an exclusion in insurance policies and are not likely to be covered. This includes any coverage of mould damage, its removal and any cleaning.

Is mould considered damage?

Mould can also cause odours and damage to building materials, contents and structures. If left untreated, it can grow into plaster, ceiling cavities, behind walls, in and behind gyprock and under carpets and floorboards – potentially causing structural damage.

Can a house with black mould be fixed?

In fact, **more often than not, mould problems can be solved.** Not only that, the presence of mould can put you in a good negotiating position as a buyer, often resulting in getting a better deal on the house.

Does a dehumidifier help with mould?

A dehumidifier makes the external conditions less welcoming to mould; by removing moisture, they reduce the chances of mould growth. An air purifier, however, removes mould spores from the air, making it harder for mould and mildew to create new colonies.

What does a mould headache feel like?

Breathing in mould spores can irritate your mucous membranes and immune system, leading to headaches, migraines, and other health issues. Generally, mould exposure causes a sinus headache, which feels like **intense pressure on your forehead, nose, and inner ear.**

How do you stop black mould from spreading?

To Prevent Mold Growth in Your Home

1. Keep humidity levels in your home as low as you can—no higher than 50%—all day long. ...
2. Be sure the air in your home flows freely. ...
3. Fix any leaks in your home's roof, walls, or plumbing so mould does not have moisture to grow.

How do I know if the mould in my house is making me sick?

The symptoms of mould exposure can mimic allergic reactions, include coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, headaches, fatigue, skin rashes, eye irritation, and nosebleeds.