



The dangers of black mould: What to look out for

When it goes unnoticed, the effects of black mould can wreak havoc on your health and home. Here's how to deal with it:

Recognising the signs of black mould in the home

To effectively combat black mould, you first need to be able to recognise its presence. This type of fungus can grow in all sorts of places around your home, but especially in areas that are prone to moisture or darkness. While you should always call a mould-removal expert if you believe there is black mould in your house, here are some common signs and areas to look for:

- Bathrooms:** It thrives where moisture is in high supply. Check areas like shower curtains, tiles and grout lines regularly.
- Kitchens:** Kitchens can also be a breeding ground, especially near sinks, dishwashers, and behind refrigerators.
- Garages and sheds:** Dark and damp, these storage areas are prime locations. Grab a torch and inspect corners, walls and any damp materials stored here.
- Ceiling space/attics:** Leaky roofs or poor ventilation can result in black mould growth. This is one for the professionals, as they'll be able to inspect insulation and sheathing for the fungus.

6 steps to safeguarding your health and home

- 1. Test for black mould:** If you think there's black mould somewhere in your home, organise a professional inspection immediately. Only they will be able to identify the extent of the problem.
- 2. Fix moisture issues:** The root cause is probably related to a water leak or excessive humidity. You'll need to fix any leaky roofs, get plumbing issues sorted and make sure your rooms have proper ventilation.
- 3. Protective gear:** Your mould-removal professional should be wearing protective gear including gloves, an N95 respirator mask and eye protection.
- 4. Isolate the area:** Keep everyone away from the affected area to stop the spread of spores to other parts of your home. Seal off vents and doorways as necessary.
- 5. Removal methods:** Depending on the level of mould removal needed, professionals may use different products and methods. It could be as simple as cleaning the area with a specialised mould cleaner, or in more severe cases it might require the removal and replacement of drywall and insulation.
- 6. Dispose properly:** Make sure your mould removalist disposes of the contaminated materials and cleaning supplies properly to prevent further contamination.

How to manage or prevent black mould from returning

- Use exhaust fans that vent outside your home in the kitchen or bathroom.
- Make sure your clothes dryer vents outside your home.
- Fix any leaks in your roof, walls or plumbing to eliminate moisture.
- In the case of a flood, clean and dry out your home within the first 24 - 48 hours.
- Remove and replace carpets and upholstery that have been soaked and cannot be dried right away.
- Don't use carpet in places such as bathrooms or basements.

Black mould is a dangerous intruder that can have severe consequences for your home and your family's health. If you suspect it's taken up residence in your house, take action immediately.

Your health and safety are paramount, so use these tips to make sure your living spaces are free from the dangers of black mould. Help keep both your family and home protected with [home and contents insurance](#) by [comparing a range of policies](#) with Choosi today.

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