

# CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

Housing & Residential Services / Risk Management & Safety Services

## --MOLD--

### Did You Know?

- Mold is a type of fungus that helps break down biodegradable materials.
- Mold can spread and develop on any surface and there are over 10,000 species of mold. This includes *Penicillium* mold which naturally produces the antibiotic penicillin.
- Mold spores cannot be eliminated from indoor environments, but their growth can be prevented by limiting moisture and promptly treating visible signs of growth to prevent spread.

### Living in Humboldt County & My Responsibilities?

Humidity sets up prime growing conditions for mold. Buildings in naturally humid climates, such as Humboldt County, experience more mold problems than those in dryer climates. Mold in your room or apartment common areas that result from poor housekeeping is your responsibility to clean.

### How Can I Prevent?

- Regularly allow air to circulate in your room/apartment/restroom by opening windows and using exhaust fans or keeping the thermostat set so that it goes on routinely which pulls in outside air, and will help keep the area ventilated.
- Practice good housekeeping to reduce clutter and maintain clean surfaces. Keep flooring dry and clean, as excess moisture as well as dust and debris (trash, food) on the ground can harbor growth.
- Keep an air space between furniture, bedding, and other items and the walls/floor to improve airflow.
- Keep all areas clean, uncluttered and hang up wet/damp articles such as towels and/or clothing.
- Consider using a fan and/or dehumidifier/desiccant containers and routinely wipe condensation off windows and other surfaces.
- Promptly report any maintenance conditions such as leaking plumbing, weatherproofing, etc. that may introduce moisture to the Housing Front Desk or Information Desk.

## What is the Cleaning & Remediation Process?

- Use cleaning solutions that will discourage the growth of mold and promptly apply directly to any visible mold on flooring/furniture/walls - Cleaning products are supplied and included in each apartment or available by contacting the Housing Office (always follow instructions and precautionary statements when using cleaning products).
- Use of moisture absorbing products such as Damp Rid™ and mold removers such as Clorox Tilex®.
- If mold growth cannot be abated by prevention and cleaning measures, contact the Housing Office to request Facilities Management to inspect the issue.

## Links to products useful for mold remediation and prevention:

- [Damp Rid](#)
- [Moisture Eliminator](#)
- [Lysol Mold and Mildew](#)
- [Clorox Tilex](#)