

## Certified Green Dealer's Quiz on Mold

Each Quiz presents questions based on the video. As the student takes the quiz he/she is informed of the correct answer and given a full explanation.

1) There is heightened awareness of mold these days because...

1. There is more mold in the world now than there was in 1970.
2. Mold has mutated over time and is now more aggressive and poisonous.
3. Buildings are tighter now and they don't naturally dry out the way they used to.
4. Wet wood is more common now.

Correct answer: #3

Commentary: With modern building science, we've tightened up our houses and reduced sources of natural ventilation—which means that we don't allow air to whistle through our walls and dry them out. As a result, we can get potential moisture buildup in walls and when the relative humidity is high, mold can grow.

2) What two things does mold need to grow, in addition to oxygen?

1. Sunlight and moisture
2. Dry weather and wood
3. A food source and moisture
4. Soil and certain plants

Correct answer: #3

Commentary: Food for mold can be found in the form of paper-faced gypsum drywall, wood products, and even some carpet. Basically, mold eats the sugar and starch from the cellulose.

3) In lumberyards, mold can originate on...

- 1) All wood and drywall
- 2) Any damp wood or damp drywall
- 3) Any fiberglass product
- 4) Within the folds and rolls of housewrap

Correct answer: #2

Commentary: In lumberyards, mold can originate on damp wood or drywall because all mold needs to grow is moisture, a food source, and oxygen (air).

4) You can stop mold in your lumberyards by depriving it of food. True or false?

1. True
2. False

Correct answer: False

Commentary: In a lumberyard setting, it's practically impossible to deprive mold of food, because food for mold is everywhere in the form of wood and the paper face on drywall. So, if you can't deprive mold of food, the obvious path to controlling mold is to deprive it of water. And the easiest way to do this is to keep drywall and wood dry.

5) If mold develops on wood that you shipped to a job site, the mold likely developed at the site as a result of moisture present at the location. True or false?

1. True
2. False

Correct answer: True

Commentary: Before lumber leaves your yard, give it a visual inspection to make sure you are not shipping moldy wood products. If you ship wood that you know is mold-free, and that wood later develops mold, the likely cause of that mold is moisture that originated in the form of rain, on-site groundwater, or indoor sources.

6) The moisture that allows mold to grow *always* comes from either rain or dew. True or false.

1. True
2. False

Correct answer: False

Commentary: Though moisture is a key requirement for mold to grow, that moisture does not always come from rain or dew. It can actually come from wood itself and appear on the surface of unseasoned framing lumber as it dries.

7) All wood must be artificially dried to a predetermined level to prevent mold growth.. True or false.

1. True
2. False

Correct answer: False

Commentary: The moisture content of wood needs to be reduced to below 20% to defeat the growth of most mold. Lumber will eventually dry to below 20% moisture content without artificial means.

8) The best way to keep wood dry is to throw a good

heavy-duty plastic covering over it. True or false.

1. True
2. False

Correct answer: False

Commentary: During the time it takes wood to naturally dry, you can't just cover it with plastic, because the plastic can act as a tent that keeps water from fully evaporating. Wood should be stored under cover in a dry location, but watch for condensation that may appear on the underside of the cover, and make sure you give moist wood a chance to properly dry out.

**9)** Liability for mold damage will always fall to the contractor, not the lumberyard. True or false.

1. True
2. False

Correct answer: False

Commentary: Each year the building industry spends millions of dollars in payout for mold damage, and millions more for on-site mold remediation. But if building materials are shipped moldy or the source of the mold can be found at the lumber dealer, the lumber dealer may be liable.

**10)** To really get rid of mold permanently, spray it with bleach. True or false

1. True

2. False

Correct answer: False

Commentary: If you discover mold on some of your lumber, you can't get rid of it just by spraying it with bleach. That might kill the surface mold, but it won't kill the spores, and the bleach itself can be irritating to the yard employees performing this cleanup. (Also note that bleach can cause

corrosion of electrical and mechanical components.)

Instead, mold spores growing on the surface of wood should be cleaned by wet wiping or wet vacuuming the surface. The surface should also be scrubbed with water and detergent, and cleaned with a HEPA vacuum.