



SEMPER SAFE



Mold and Mildew

What are the differences between mold versus mildew and the best methods for cleaning mold and mildew? Mold and mildew are both types of fungi and are similar in many ways. The chart below shows some of the major differences.

	Mold	Mildew
Appearance	Mold is usually fuzzy in appearance. It can be many different colors, including blue, green, yellow, brown, gray, black, or white.	Mildew usually grows in a flat pattern and may appear either powdery or downy. Powdery mildew usually starts out white and may later turn yellow, brown, or black. Downy mildew usually starts out yellow and later turns brown.
Problems it Causes	Structural damage to homes can occur over time. Mold can also cause numerous health problems, including respiratory problems, allergic reactions, migraines, inflammation and pain in the joints, mental status changes, and extreme fatigue.	Mildew can cause damage to plants and crops. It can also cause health problems, including respiratory problems and headaches.
Beneficial Uses	Some forms of mold are used in the production of food, like cheese, and some forms of mold are used to make medications, like antibiotic penicillin.	None

When cleaning mildew and mold:

- Make sure your work area is well-ventilated, as many mold and mildew cleaners give off fumes that are harmful to breathe.
- Wear a facial mask to prevent breathing in mold or mildew spores as well as to protect yourself from breathing fumes given off by the cleaning product you use.
- Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands from the mold and mildew as well as from the cleaning product you use.
- Use an antimicrobial mold and mildew remover, such as Foster 40-80 (no govt endorsement), because it is effective on both mold and mildew, but you can get other brands that will work just as well. Not all household cleaning products and bathroom cleaners will do the job, though.
- Clean the surrounding area as well as the area where you actually see mold and mildew, to make sure you remove all traces of the substances.
- Remove materials that cannot be thoroughly cleaned of mold and mildew, like insulation, carpeting, or drywall, and replace those with new, mold-free materials.

In accordance with Marine Corps Base Order 11014.1K, specifications 1-2 paragraph C (7) states: "Tenants of all buildings are responsible for housekeeping care. Such janitorial duties include, but not limited to: cleaning floors, walls, HVAC registers and diffusers, windows (inside and outside), cleaning of fixtures and various Marine Corps owned appliances such as window air conditioners stoves, range hoods, refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, water fountains, etc."

(Note: The process of cleaning mold/mildew is also a responsibility of the building's occupants. Cleaning solutions are available at SERVMART. A solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water may also be used).

As Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines we live by our ethos. So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, Sailors, civilian employees or family members, and remember SEMPER SAFE!