

QuickTox™ Black Mold Test Kit—INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Kit contains: 2 sample cups, 2 swabs, 1 bottle test solution, 2 test strips

GENERAL INFORMATION

Use and Applicability: This QuickTox Black mold Test Kit is intended for use in the home to rapidly identify whether areas of visible mold contain *Stachybotrys chartarum* or *Aspergillus niger* spores. It is designed to obtain, extract, and test obvious mold growth at the levels typically found on contaminated environmental samples, such as dry wall, ceiling tiles, and carpets. This rapid test is capable of detecting *Stachybotrys chartarum* and *Aspergillus niger* at levels as low as 100,000 spores per milliliter (spores/mL) of test solution for *Stachybotrys chartarum* and 5,000,000 spores/mL for *Aspergillus niger*.

Mold samples can be gathered from a variety of materials including dust, dirt, soot, paper covered gypsum dry wall, ceiling tiles, carpet, cardboard, joint compound (wet and dry), spackling paste (wet and dry), wood, paint chips, linoleum, transparent tape, and foam pipe insulation.

Specificity and Cross Reactivity: This test does not distinguish between toxic and non-toxic *Stachybotrys chartarum* varieties or *Aspergillus niger* species. It will distinguish *Stachybotrys chartarum* from *Aspergillus niger* and other *Stachybotrys* species so far identified.

The following molds have been tested with the QuickTox Black Mold Test at the concentrations typically found on contaminated indoor materials and have been found to cause no false positive results: *Alternaria sp.*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Chaetomium sp.*, *Cladosporium sp.*, *Penicillium sp.*, and *Trichoderma sp.*

The kit may give a positive result with a sample containing *Memmoniella sp.* (also a potentially toxic mold) at levels over 10,000,000 spores/mL.

TEST INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Prepare the test solution

1. Place the sample cup upright on a flat, level surface.
2. Add 15 drops of test solution to the cup.

Step 2: Collect the sample

Note: When collecting the sample, take precautions to avoid contact with the mold.

Do not touch mold or moldy items with bare hands. Do not get mold or mold spores in your eyes. Do not breathe in mold or mold spores. If you have to disturb a moldy area to obtain the sample, take the additional precautions (recommended by the EPA) of wearing gloves, goggles and a N-95 type respirator (N-95 type respirators are available in most hardware stores).

1. Open the package containing the swabs and remove one swab, holding it by the wooden end.
2. Locate an area with obvious mold growth. (Molds of concern typically appear as circular black, green, yellow, brown or white “mats” with black, green or brown spores covering the mat).
3. Use the swab to collect the mold. Collect at least a thumbtack size amount of mold for the test. Don’t cover the entire swab (that’s too much), and make sure you’ve got more than a pin-head amount (that’s too little).

Step 3: Start the test

1. Carefully twirl the swab head containing the mold sample in the solution. The solution should become cloudy or grayish-black. Note: If the solution becomes a slimy paste, too much mold was collected. The solution should be discarded, and the test should begin again with a new sample. If the solution is clear, insufficient material was collected and more mold should be added.
2. While holding the cup, press the swab against the sample cup to remove excess liquid. Discard the swab.

Step 4: Place the test strip in the cup

1. The QuickTox™ Black Mold Test Kit contains two tests, use only one test strip per sample. Place the test strip in the sample cup with the arrows pointing down. The end with the arrows should be in the liquid.
2. Wait 5 minutes. Remove the strip from the cup and read the test result.

Reading the test results:

Positive = 2 Lines on the strip

Pink test line and pink control line is a **positive result** for *Stachybotrys chartarum*.

Grey, brown or black test line and a pink control line is a **positive result** for *Aspergillus niger*.

Negative = 1 Line on the strip

No line in the test line area and a pink control line is a negative result. This means that there was no detectable *Stachybotrys chartarum* or *Aspergillus niger* mold in the sample taken. You may have them in lower concentrations or in other locations. You also may have other mold present.

Dealing with your results: A positive result means you have *Stachybotrys chartarum* or *Aspergillus niger* at the location you tested. Mold levels are not regulated yet by state or federal laws, so you are not required to do anything. However, removing the molds will greatly reduce your family’s risk of exposure to potentially harmful toxins. Eliminate the water source and clean up the mold as quickly as possible to prevent proliferation.

Mold remediation can be tricky. Once you’ve used a QuickTox kit to diagnose the problem, you should probably gain advice on how to fix it from an indoor air quality, environmental or remediation professional. **If you have health concerns, consult a health professional.**

Regardless of your result, you should clean up any area that has visible mold and be sure to fix any moisture problems. All molds can gradually destroy the things they grow on. You can prevent damage to your home and furnishings, save money, and avoid potential health problems by controlling moisture and eliminating mold growth¹.

Important Note: As with all tests, it is recommended that results be confirmed by an alternate method when necessary. This test is only one tool to help understand the nature of mold problems in your home, if any. It should be used in further discussions with environmental and health professionals to determine your best course of action. It, alone, should not be used for decisions about remediation or safety of the situation. **THERE ARE NO FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR ASSESSING WHETHER THERE IS A MOLD CONTAMINATION PROBLEM IN AN AREA.**

Kit Storage: Store the kit at room temperature in a dry location. Note the expiration date on the kit package.

Kit Handling: Prolonged exposure to high temperatures may adversely affect the test results. Do not open the foil bag until ready to use the test strips. Do not wet the strips. Avoid tearing, bending, or twisting the strips.

Detection Limit: *Stachybotrys chartarum* at 100,000 spores/mL, *Aspergillus niger* at 5,000,000 spores/mL.

Precautions: the QuickTox Black Mold Test does not contain any toxins, molds, or known contaminants of mold origin.

Do not use kit components after the expiration date.

QuickTox tests are designed to screen for presence or absence only and is not meant to be quantitative. This test has been calibrated using the test solution and procedure supplied with the kit. Use of other test solutions or procedures may invalidate the results of the test. Do not dilute the test solution or use samples not called for in the test procedure.

While common materials supporting mold growth (ceiling tile, dry wall, etc.) do not interfere with this test, it is impossible to ensure all such materials will not cause false positive results. If in doubt, test a small amount of the material that is not visibly contaminated with mold as a “negative control”. If the results are negative, it can be assumed the material does not interfere with the test and will not cause false positive results.

This test is intended for testing samples collected from surface samples only, such as building materials, furnishings, and building contents. It has not been validated for use on air samples, nor is it intended for or validated for use as a human or animal diagnostic.

This is a screening test. It is not intended to replace an inspection by a licensed environmental testing professional or testing laboratory.

Resources: To locate an indoor air quality, environmental testing, industrial hygiene or remediation specialist, check your local Yellow Pages under those or similar headings, or the following:

AIHA (American Industrial Hygiene Association) Consultants List, searchable by specialty and state (paid listings):

<http://www.aiha.org/ConsultantsConsumers/html/consultantslist.asp>

Further information is contained on our web site at: www.quicktox.com, including links to helpful detailed guides at the US Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. You may also contact the Health, Environmental Health, Housing or Social Services departments of your city or country government.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BLACK MOLD AND QUICKTOX

What is Black Mold?

Black Mold is a commonly used term to describe a form of toxic mold. Black Mold contamination has been linked to health problems and property losses.

Black Mold is technically *Stachybotrys chartarum* (also known as *Stachybotrys atra*), a greenish-black mold found on moist material containing cellulose, such as wood, paper, dust, lint, paper covered drywall, and ceiling tiles. Typically, *Stachybotrys* will not grow on concrete, linoleum, tile, fiberglass insulation, or fiberglass ceiling tiles. It is found where there is moisture from leaks, water damage, or high humidity.

Another toxic mold that has been linked to health problems is *Aspergillus niger*, a white or yellow mold covered with a dense layer of black spores. It is a common mold and grows on a variety of materials provided there is adequate moisture.

The QuickTox™ Black Mold Kit tests for the presence of both *Stachybotrys chartarum* and *Aspergillus niger*.

Why test for Black Mold?

Serious health problems have been associated with the toxic Black Mold, *Stachybotrys chartarum*³. (See next answer for more information on the types of health problems).

Aspergillus niger, the second mold that this kit detects, is one of the species of *Aspergillus* commonly found in the environment. It can cause allergic reactions and pulmonary infection⁴, so it is important to know if it is present in your home.

Should I be concerned about other molds?

All molds have the potential to cause health problems. Molds produce allergens (substances that cause allergic reactions), irritants, and in some cases, potentially toxic substances (mycotoxins)¹. Potential health concerns are an important reason to prevent mold growth and to remediate/clean up any existing indoor mold growth².

What types of health problems have been linked to molds?

Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Allergic responses include hay fever-type symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes and skin rash (dermatitis). Allergic reactions to mold are common. They can be immediate or delayed. Molds can also cause asthma attacks in people with asthma who are allergic to mold. In addition, mold exposure can irritate the eyes, skin, nose, throat and lungs of both mold-allergic and non-allergic people¹.

These effects depend on:

- an individual's sensitivity;
- the type, duration, and amount of mold exposure;
- the general health and age of the affected individual.

In addition to reactions to molds themselves, certain molds, including *Stachybotrys chartarum* and *Aspergillus niger*, may produce potent toxins (mycotoxins) under certain circumstances. Many symptoms and human health effects attributed to inhalation of mycotoxins have been reported including: mucous membrane irritation, skin rash, nausea, immune system suppression, acute or chronic liver damage, acute or chronic central nervous system damage, endocrine effects, and cancer².

I don't see any mold growing anywhere, could it be hidden?

Yes. If you smell or suspect hidden mold contamination but cannot locate the source, mold could still be present. Look for areas where moisture collects such as the underside of cold water pipes, inside ductwork, or in the attic or basement. Check for water stains on the ceiling or underneath windowsills. Mold may be hidden along the back side of drywall, wallpaper, paneling, underneath carpets, behind furniture, or anywhere that moisture collects. Try not to set mold free in the air as you explore.

What if the QuickTox test is positive? What should I do next?

A positive result means you have *Stachybotrys chartarum* or *Aspergillus niger* at the location you tested. Mold levels are not regulated yet by state or federal laws, so you're not required to do anything. However, removing the molds will greatly reduce your family's risk of exposure to potentially harmful toxins. Eliminate the water source and clean up the mold as quickly as possible to prevent proliferation.

Mold remediation can be tricky. Once you've used the QuickTox™ kit to diagnose the problem, you should probably gain advice on how to fix it from an indoor air quality, environmental or remediation professional. If you have health concerns, consult a health professional.

What does a negative test result mean? Should I do anything else?

A negative result means that *Stachybotrys chartarum* and *Aspergillus niger* molds were not detectable at the location you tested. You may have them in very low concentrations that are not detectable with this kit, and you could still have them in other locations—testing those may be desirable. Or you may have other species of molds present in varying amounts.

Regardless of your result, you should clean up any area that has visible mold and be sure to fix any moisture problems. All molds can gradually destroy the things they grow on. You can prevent damage to your home and furnishings, save money, and avoid potential health problems by controlling moisture and eliminating mold growth¹.

How do I get rid of mold?

The EPA recommends cleaning surface molds with water and a mild detergent, followed by 10% bleach solution. If using a disinfectant, bleach or strong cleaning solution, you should use gloves made from natural rubber, neoprene, nitrile, polyurethane or PVC¹.

Removal and cleanup may best be performed by a professional. You can find good advice in the following documents:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publication "[A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home](#)" or
- Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) eight-page booklet "[Dealing with Mold & Mildew in Your Flood Damaged Home](#)"

Molds are found everywhere, but it is important to control them in your home, workplace, and other indoor environments. Indoor mold growth can and should be prevented or controlled by controlling moisture indoors. If you clean up the mold, but don't fix the water problem, then, most likely, the mold problem will come back¹.

Some quick preventative tips:

- Dry spills within 48 hours
- Fix leaking faucets
- Eliminate excessive humidity
- Vent bathrooms and kitchens
- Repair leaky basements or roofs
- Clean gutters
- Reduce condensation

What if the mold comes back, or we keep having health problems?

If mold comes back, or appears in other areas, you have not fixed the moisture problems. Molds can not grow without water. You should promptly seek professional help in identifying the problem and fixing it.

If people living or working in the building continue to have health complaints or physical symptoms, you should contact a health professional with experience in mold issues.

Are the results of the QuickTox test reliable and accurate?

Yes, if you follow the instructions carefully, the results are very reliable and accurate. As with any screening test however, it is always advisable to confirm the results through another testing method or by contacting an indoor air quality or environmental professional with experience in treating mold issues.

References

¹ "A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home" USEPA (EPA 402-K-02-003)

² "Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings" USEPA (EPA 402-K-01-001)

³ "Dealing with Mold & Mildew in Your Flood Damaged Home" US FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

⁴ "Aspergillosis Technical Information" US CDC Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases results.

If you have any questions regarding the test, check our web site at:

www.quicktox.com or call us at 1-866-860-MOLD (6653).

LIMITED WARRANTY

EnviroLogix Inc. ("EnviroLogix"), the manufacturer of QuickTox kits, warrants the products sold hereunder ("the Products") against defects in materials and workmanship when used in accordance with the applicable instructions for a period not to extend beyond a product's printed expiration date. If the Products do not conform to this Limited Warranty and the customer notifies EnviroLogix in writing of such defects during the warranty period, including an offer by the customer to return the Products to EnviroLogix for evaluation, EnviroLogix will repair or replace, at its option, any product or part thereof that proves defective in materials or workmanship within the warranty period.

ENVIROLOGIX MAKES NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. The warranty provided herein and the data, specifications and descriptions of EnviroLogix products appearing in EnviroLogix published catalogues and product literature are EnviroLogix' sole representations concerning the Products and warranty. No other statements or representations, written or oral, by EnviroLogix' employees, agents or representatives, except written statements signed by a duly authorized officer of EnviroLogix Inc., are authorized; they should not be relied upon by the customer and are not a part of the contract of sale or of this warranty.

EnviroLogix does not warrant against damages or defects arising in shipping or handling, or out of accident or improper or abnormal use of the Products; against defects in products or components not manufactured by EnviroLogix, or against damages resulting from such non-EnviroLogix made products or components. EnviroLogix passes on to customer the warranty it received (if any) from the maker thereof of such non-EnviroLogix made products or components. This warranty also does not apply to Products to which changes or modifications have been made or attempted by persons other than pursuant to written authorization by EnviroLogix.

THIS WARRANTY IS EXCLUSIVE. The sole and exclusive obligation of EnviroLogix shall be to repair or replace the defective Products in the manner and for the period provided above. EnviroLogix shall not have any other obligation with respect to the Products or any part thereof, whether based on contract, tort, strict liability or otherwise. Under no circumstances, whether based on this Limited Warranty or otherwise, shall EnviroLogix be liable for incidental, special, or consequential damages.

This Limited Warranty states the entire obligation of EnviroLogix with respect to the Products. If any part of this Limited Warranty is determined to be void or illegal, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

License: EnviroLogix has developed this kit using proprietary reagents and certain other licensed reagents.

US Patent Application Serial No. 60/311,458 pending.

QuickTox, EnviroLogix, and the EnviroLogix logo are trademarks of EnviroLogix Inc.

© EnviroLogix 2006



500 Riverside Industrial Parkway
Portland, ME 04103 USA
Toll Free 1-866-408-4597