

## An Inside Look At Improving Home Air Quality

The biggest tip I can give homeowners is to make them aware of the myth surrounding bleach and mold removal. The fact is, bleach isn't as effective in removing and preventing mold growth as most people think. The EPA even recommends against the use of bleach in their manual on household mold, [EPA 402-K-02-003](#) (see pg 14). In short, here's why:

- Bleach can't kill mold in porous materials like wood, drywall, and fabrics. It will only remove from the surface level, but the mold roots will remain and regrow.
- Dead mold can still cause allergic reactions, so any mold you kill needs to be removed.
- The MOST important step in mold remediation is preventing new mold growth. Bleach does nothing to prevent new growth, and without taking this step, mold will continue to grow.

Essentially, bleach is only useful against mold on hard, nonporous surfaces. Even then, if the mold continues to return, other steps need to be taken to remove this health hazard.

Now I'd like to share an example of how I have effectively removed and prevented new mold growth for a customer.

### Mold in the attic:

Many of my customers have been living with mold for years. When they see it, they bleach it. When it returns, they bleach it again and again. David called me because that wasn't an option. After having his home on the market for a year, he finally had a family interested in buying it. Unfortunately, the buyers' home inspector found mold in the attic. This would not work for the buyers because they had two small children with mold

allergies. They were ready to walk away from the purchase, leaving David tied to his unsold home.

So David called me and asked if I could meet with the buyers and offer a solution to their concerns about the mold. I was able to implement the following plan:

- Step 1: Complete our super-effective mold removal process throughout the entire attic. Unlike bleach, our method can eliminate the roots of the mold, even in porous surfaces like wood.
- Step 2: Install prevention measures to ensure the mold will not come back. Homes are built with the goal of maximizing insulation which often results in minimal airflow. This can create moisture build-up and breeding grounds for mold. Our tried-and-true methods allow homeowners to prevent new mold growth before it starts.
- Step 3: Follow up with post-remediation air testing on the upper level of the home. This ensures the safest possible conditions typically where the children's bedrooms are located.

Our 3 step plan exceeded the buyers' expectations and assured them the house they wanted was safe for their children. David sold the home and was able to continue his quest to "chase his grandchildren" who relocated to Florida two years prior.

What should you test for? Everything.

David's story of finding mold in the attic is a classic example of finding the best solution to a known problem. Unfortunately, mold isn't the only possible home health hazard. Another customer, Michael, called me because he didn't know what was causing a burning sensation in his 5 year old daughter's throat. Several trips to an Ear, Nose and

Throat doctor left him without any answers, so the doctor finally suggested that he get his home air tested.

Michael hired a company that sold him on “mold-only testing”. Of course, that was the only testing they perform. The results came back great, no elevated mold. While it’s good news that he didn’t have a mold problem, this didn’t tell him what was making his daughter sick. His experience was like the many frustrated customers that call our office. He hired (and paid BIG MONEY for) someone in hopes he would get a solution to help his daughter, but all he got were test results. Obviously, by this time Michael was frustrated about having spent so much time and money, and not getting any real answers. After a lengthy conversation with Michael, we decided that our testing services would offer a much more comprehensive examination of the air quality in his home, and help us get to the source and offer solutions for his daughter. The test we decided on covered over 500 potential contaminants that may be affecting his daughter, along with mold spores!

Our testing results were very interesting, showing a high level of alcohol concentration in the air of Michael’s home. Although high alcohol concentration in the air isn’t something most people think to test for, after discussing his daughter’s symptoms, it just made sense. On our follow-up call, we went through an exhaustive lists of household products that contain high levels of alcohol. One of the products was the family’s “go-to” product for cleaning and sanitizing. The family went through their home and replaced all products with a high level of alcohol with safer alternatives, and the daughters’ symptoms subsided! I was thrilled that we were able to find the cause, discuss options to remedy the problem and give Michael the real solution he was looking for.

### My Solution:

In my many years of experience, a lot of homeowners are in the same boat as Michael. They have a suspicion that there is “something going on in my house” causing them or their children specific symptoms. Maybe they have tested for mold or one or two other things, but these tests only told them what wasn’t causing their problems. That is why

we have made it our business to give our customers an exponentially better option than the “mold only” tests for indoor air contaminants, and offer solutions to eliminate them. Which brings me to my final point.

Many tests and testing services offer the ability to identify harmful toxins in your home. However, they don't provide a solution. I would like to offer you my combined experience as an indoor air quality expert and remediation expert. You don't have to guess as to whether you can eliminate the health hazard. And you don't have to search for a contractor with experience remediating indoor air quality issues.

If you haven't had your home's air quality tested, or have a mold problem you'd like fixed permanently, don't hesitate to contact me at...



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