

TOOLBOX TALK #2

MOLD IN THE WORKPLACE



Flooding or excess rainwater can result in your jobsite taking in water. And if the site is not watertight, that can lead to mold growth. Mold typically forms 24 – 48 hours after water intrusion occurs, according to the Mine Safety and Health Administration. It can form on moisture-containing materials and high-humid environments. Wet drywall

is a great place to find mold.

Here are some indications your jobsite may have mold:

Unusual odors. MSHA says the smell of mold is often described as musty, earthy or unpleasant.

Respiratory or skin issues. Workers experiencing these conditions could be exposed to mold.

When searching for mold growth, the agency says, “Mold is often hidden inside walls, in crawl spaces, under or inside furniture, and in other spaces not easily visible.”

If you find evidence of mold, you should:

- Make sure no water or moisture is still entering the area
- Once you confirm no water is entering the area, dry the space using fans, dehumidifiers, or other means of water removal
- Determine the scope of the mold growth
- Remove dust buildup with a HEPA vacuum
- Begin mold remediation
- In construction, we oftentimes simply cut away and remove the material mold has formed on

“Mold remediation can be hazardous,” says MSHA, which recommends following appropriate mold remediation procedures and engineering controls, as well as wearing proper personal protective equipment during the process.