



## Whats in Your Attic?

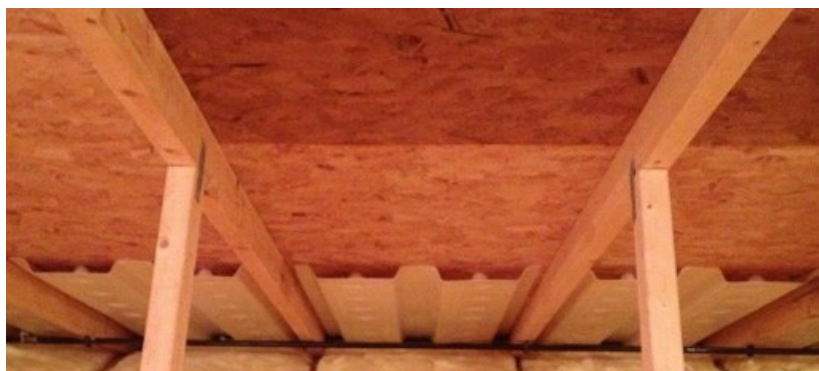
Mold is commonly found in our attics here on the wet coast. This is due to our climate, leaks, but mostly due to incorrectly installed fan exhaust vents - or ones that have come apart. Mold is so common that it is often not recognized or ignored, particularly in the summer when it becomes dormant and is grey in colour.

Yes, it is common, but should it be ignored? Opinions differ as to whether or not the mold spores in an attic spread into your home through vapour pressure. In other words, when you open and close doors, does the vapour pressure move the spores out of your attic and into your living area? Are you breathing them in? I guess the question is, would you be comfortable living in a home with mold in the attic?



Mould growth in an attic

Health Canada advises that high concentrations of airborne mold spores may have a number of adverse health effects. These include eye, nose, and throat irritation; coughing and phlegm build-up; wheezing and shortness of breath; and allergic reactions. Some studies show that mold may also affect your immune system.



An example of an attic with no mould growth

Attic sheathing should be the caramel wood colour of osb or plywood – it should not be white, black or grey.

There are many processes available to remove mold. Encapsulation (painting over the mold with various products) is a common one but is not recommended by CMHC or the Canadian Construction Association. Complete remediation (removal) is your best bet, but where do you go?

Comox Valley  
250.334.8108

Campbell River  
250.287-0519

If you have – or suspect you have – a mold problem, start by researching remediation companies. Here are some questions to ask:

- Is the company encapsulating or removing the mold?
- Are their on site workers trained in mold remediation?
- Is the company accredited with the Better Business Bureau?
- Are they willing to provide you with some references?
- Do they carry industry required pollution & liability insurance?
- Are they in good standing with Worksafe BC?

A reputable company will be happy to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision.