

# THE RISK OBSERVER

Safety Information for Residents

## PREVENTING MOLD IN YOUR APARTMENT

Mold grows naturally in our environment from microscopic spores that exist in the air all around us, both indoors and out. When those spores come in contact with a moist surface, they can grow into what we know as mold. Mold cannot exist without water or moisture. So, to control or prevent indoor mold growth, you must first control the moisture indoors.

- Keep windows and doors closed if high humidity, damp, or rainy weather conditions are present.
- Do not allow damp towels, clothes, or other cloth materials to remain for an extended period of time.
- On a regular basis, clean using a household disinfectant and dry areas where moisture sometimes accumulates (sinks, countertops, bathtubs, toilets, patio doors, windows, windowsills, etc).
- Be sure to clean spills immediately.

Proper ventilation can help contribute to controlling moisture in your apartment.

- Use the bathroom fan when bathing or showering and use the exhaust fan in your kitchen when cooking. Kitchen fans can also run during the dishwasher cycle to expend the steam or moisture it releases.
- Open windows to help ventilate. If it is not practical to open windows, run the fan on your apartment's air conditioning/heating system to circulate fresh air throughout your apartment.
- Avoid overfilling closets and storage areas to allow proper ventilation.
- Do not block or cover any of the vents or ducts in your apartment.
- Maintain a temperature below 80° Fahrenheit within your apartment whenever possible.

In addition to controlling moisture, you can also help minimize the potential for conditions that could lead to the growth of naturally occurring mold by taking the following actions:

- Clean and dust your apartment on a regular basis. Regular vacuuming, mopping, and use of disinfectant cleaners is important to remove household dirt and debris that contribute to mold growth.
- Ensure that your clothes dryer vent is working properly by not leaking any exhaust, and clean the lint screen trap after every use.
- Contact the management office if you are having trouble preventing or removing mold in your apartment.
- Immediately report any failure or malfunction with your HVAC system, ventilation/fan systems, laundry equipment, sink drains, windows, or doors to the management office.
- Immediately report any evidence of a water leak or excessive moisture in your apartment, storage room, or any common area.