

# Resa

*"consumer friendly environmental solutions"*

(602) 230-9500 fax: (602) 230-9553

[www.resaaz.com](http://www.resaaz.com)

## MOLD MYTH BUSTERS!

### **Mold doesn't grow in Arizona**

False. Mold thrives anywhere there are warm, damp conditions with a source of organic food for it to eat. Damp conditions in Arizona homes are typically caused by water leaks (pipes, dishwashers, washing machines, water heaters, roof leaks, etc.)

### **Mold grows only in older, flood-damaged buildings.**

False. Mold grows on wood, carpet, bathroom ceilings and leather furniture in apartments, condos, dorms, old homes and homes under construction.

### **Homeowners can sell homes without disclosing mold problems or water damage.**

False. Oh so illegal. Mold can cause dry rot in wood and structural damage, which is why the seller's disclosure contract specifically addresses mold growth, roof leaks, flooding and water damage.

### **Mold is strictly a cosmetic nuisance.**

False. Most mold is harmless – the fuzzy stuff on cheese or on the grout in the bathroom – but mold spores can be an airborne contaminant and can cause health problems in some people. Dr. Stuart Lanson, a Scottsdale physician who specializes in environmental illness, said mold exposure often triggers allergies or asthma, but other symptoms can arise as well.

### **You can tell toxic mold by looking at it.**

False. Mold can look different depending on the environment it is growing in and what it's growing on. Mold growths have a variety of appearances and colors (i.e. white orange, green, gray, brown or black).

### **Mold should not be found inside a building.**

False. There is always a little mold everywhere, in the air and on many surfaces. Microscopic spores or the reproductive cells of mold are always floating in the air.

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## More Mold MYTH BUSTERS!

### **All mold is toxic.**

False. Most molds are not toxic. However, per the AZ Department of Health, certain molds in large quantities may cause serious health problems. Also, some types of molds can produce toxins, called mycotoxins, that mold uses to inhibit or prevent the growth of other organisms. Mycotoxins are found in both living and dead mold spores.

### **All people are sensitive to mold.**

False. However, according to the California Department of Health Services, the following individuals are at a higher risk for adverse health effects of molds:

- Infants and children
- Elderly
- Immune compromised patients (HIV infection, cancer chemotherapy, liver disease, etc.)
- Pregnant women
- Individuals with existing respiratory conditions, such as allergies, multiple chemical sensitivity, and asthma

### **Black mold is the worst.**

False. You can't judge whether a particular mold is toxic or non-toxic simply by its color.

### **If you can't smell mold, it's not there.**

False. You may not always be able to smell mold in a building or home. A visual inspection is an important first step in identifying possible mold contamination.

## Mold Truth!

### **Mold problems can be solved.**

TRUE! Here in Arizona, mold can be fully remediated (cleaned-up), but it should be handled properly to avoid contaminating the rest of the house. Call a professional company who has knowledgeable, Certified Residential Mold Inspectors who will identify if there is an issue, and offers affordably priced remediation packages to get the job done. (RESA for example! Call 602-230-9500 for Mold Solutions without the Hype!)