

Mold Information and Prevention Addendum

Date of Lease: _____
(when the Lease is filled out)

Please note: We want to maintain a high-quality living environment for our residents. To help achieve this goal, it is important that we work together to minimize any mold growth in your dwelling. This addendum contains important information for you, and responsibilities for both you and us.

1. Addendum. This is an addendum to the Lease Contract executed by you, the resident or residents, on the dwelling you have agreed to rent.

That dwelling is: Unit # _____

at _____

(name of apartments)

or other dwelling located at _____

(street address of house, duplex, etc.)

City/State/Zip where dwelling is located: _____

2. About Mold. Mold is found everywhere in our environment, both indoors and outdoors and in both new and old structures. Molds are nothing new—they are natural microscopic organisms that reproduce by spores. They have always been with us. In the environment, molds break down organic matter and use the end product for food. Without molds we would all be struggling with large amounts of dead organic matter. Mold spores (like plant pollen) spread through the air and are commonly transported by shoes, clothing, and other materials. Mold can grow inside a dwelling when excess moisture is present. There is conflicting scientific evidence about how much mold must accumulate before it creates adverse health effects on people and animals. Even so, we must take appropriate precautions to prevent its buildup.

3. Preventing Mold Begins with You. To minimize the potential for mold growth in your dwelling, you must:

- Keep your dwelling clean—particularly the kitchen, the bathrooms, carpets, and floors. Regular vacuuming and mopping of floors, plus cleaning hard surfaces using a household cleaner, are all important to remove the household dirt and debris that harbor mold or food for mold. Throw away moldy food immediately.
- Remove visible moisture accumulations on windows, walls, ceilings, floors, and other surfaces as soon as reasonably possible. Look for leaks in washing-machine hoses and discharge lines—especially if the leak is large enough for water to seep into nearby walls. If your dwelling has them, turn on exhaust fans in the bathroom before showering and in the kitchen before cooking with open pots. Also when showering, keep the shower curtain inside the tub (or fully close the shower doors). Experts also recommend that after a shower or bath you (1) wipe moisture off shower walls, shower doors, the bathtub, and the bathroom floor; (2) leave the bathroom door open until all moisture on the mirrors and bathroom walls and tile surfaces has dissipated; and (3) hang up your towels and bath mats so they will completely dry out.
- Promptly notify us in writing about any air-conditioning or heating-system problems you discover. Follow any of our rules about replacing air filters. It's also good practice to open windows and doors periodically on days when the outdoor weather is dry (i.e., humidity is below 50%) to help humid areas of your dwelling dry out.
- Promptly notify us in writing of any signs of water leaks, water infiltration, or mold. We will respond in accordance with state law and the Lease Contract to repair or remedy the situation as necessary.

4. Avoiding Moisture Buildup. To avoid mold growth, it's important to prevent excess moisture buildup in your dwelling. Failing to promptly attend to leaks and moisture accumulations on dwelling surfaces can encourage mold growth, especially in places where they might get inside walls or ceilings. Prolonged moisture can come from a wide variety of sources, such as:

- rainwater leaking from roofs, windows, doors, and outside walls, as well as flood waters rising above floor level;
- overflows from showers, bathtubs, toilets, sinks, washing machines, dehumidifiers, refrigerator or air-conditioner drip pans, or clogged air-conditioner condensation lines;
- leaks from plumbing lines or fixtures, and leaks into walls from bad or missing grouting or caulking around showers, bathtubs, or sinks;
- washing-machine hose leaks, plant-watering overflows, pet urine, cooking spills, beverage spills, and steam from excessive open-pot cooking;
- leaks from clothes-dryer discharge vents (which can put a lot of moisture into the air); and
- insufficient drying of carpets, carpet pads, shower walls, and bathroom floors.

5. Cleaning Mold. If small areas of mold have already accumulated on nonporous surfaces (such as ceramic tile, formica, vinyl flooring, metal, wood, or plastic), the Environmental Protection Agency recommends that you first clean the areas with soap (or detergent) and water and let the surface dry thoroughly. (Applying biocides without first cleaning away the dirt and oils from the surface is like painting over old paint without first cleaning and preparing the surface.) When the surface is dry—and within 24 hours of cleaning—apply a premixed spray-on household biocide such as Lysol Disinfectant, Original Pine-Sol Cleaner, Tilex Mold & Mildew Remover or Clorox Clean-up Cleaner + Bleach. (Note two things: First, only a few of the common household cleaners can actually kill mold. Second, Tilex and Clorox contain bleach, which can discolor or stain surfaces, so follow the instructions on the container.) Always clean and apply a biocide to an area five or six times larger than any mold you see—mold can be present but not yet visible to the naked eye. A vacuum cleaner with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter can be used to help remove nonvisible mold products from porous items such as fibers in sofas, chairs, drapes, and carpets—provided the fibers are completely dry. Machine washing or dry-cleaning will remove mold from clothes.

6. Warning for Porous Surfaces and Large Surfaces. Do not clean or apply biocides to visible mold on porous surfaces such as sheetrock walls or ceilings or to large areas of visible mold on nonporous surfaces. Instead, notify us in writing and we will take appropriate action to comply with Section 92.051 et seq. of the Texas Property Code, subject to the special exceptions for natural disasters.

7. Compliance. Complying with this addendum will help prevent mold growth in your dwelling, and both you and we will be able to respond correctly if problems develop that could lead to mold growth. If you have questions about this addendum, please contact us at the management office or at the phone number shown in your Lease Contract.

If you fail to comply with this addendum, you can be held responsible for property damage to the dwelling and any health problems that may result. We can't fix problems in your dwelling unless we know about them.

Resident or Residents (all sign below)

Owner or Owner's Representative (sign below)

(Name of Resident) Date signed

Date signed

(Name of Resident) Date signed

(Name of Resident) Date signed

(Name of Resident) Date signed