



SEEML Reference Number: H-240725036
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Southeast Environmental Microbiology Laboratories

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The information and data for **AWA Environmental Testing** has been checked for thoroughness and accuracy. The following reports are contained within this document:

☒ Surface/Bulk Report

☐ Andersen Fungal Report

☒ Spore Trap Report

☐ Quantitative Fungal Report

Lab Manager Review :

Magzoub Ismail

Date : 07-25-2024

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The data within this report is reliable to three significant figures. The third significant figure is technically unjustified. In this instance, the third figure is reported as an estimate to facilitate the interpretation by the customer.

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Guidelines for Interpretation:

No accepted quantitative regulatory standards currently exist by which to assess the health risks related to mold and bacterial exposure. Molds and bacteria have been associated with a variety of health effects and sensitivity varies from person to person.

Several organizations, including: the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH); the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA); the Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA); the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA); the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as the California Department of Health Services (CADHS), have all published guidelines for assessment and interpretation of mold resulting from water intrusion in buildings.

Interpretation of the data and information within this document is left to the company, consultant, and/or persons who conducted the fieldwork.

Spore Trap Report

AWA Environmental Testing	Date Sampled: 07/24/2024
1860 White Oak Dr #376	Date Received: 07/25/2024
Houston,TX,77009	Date Analyzed: 07/25/2024
817-739-4044	Date Reported: 07/25/2024
	Date Revised:
	Project Name: Katherine Labner
	Project Address: 509 Gale St
	Project City, State, ZIP: Houston, TX 77009
	SEEML Reference # : H-240725036

TEST METHOD: DIRECT MICROSCOPY EXAMINATION SEEML SOP 7

Client Sample ID	3867 1227			3867 1243			3867 1253		
Location	Outside			Living Room			Office		
Lab Sample ID	H-240725036-144			H-240725036-145			H-240725036-146		
Detection Limit (spores/m ³)	13			13			13		
Hyphal Fragments	1	13							
Pollen	2	27		1	13				
Spore Trap Used	AOC			AOC			AOC		
	raw ct.	spores/m ³	%	raw ct.	spores/m ³	%	raw ct.	spores/m ³	%
Alternaria (=Ulocladium)									
Ascospores	104	1387	21				24	320	10
Basidiospores	224	2987	45	48	640	53			
Bipolaris/Drechslera									
Cercospora	1	13	<1						
Chaetomium									
Cladosporium	32	427	6	16	213	18	112	1493	47
Colorless/Other Brown*									
Curvularia	2	27	<1						
Epicoccum									
Fusarium									
Memnoniella									
Nigrospora	2	27	<1	1	13	1			
Oidium									
Penicillium/Aspergillus	128	1707	26	24	320	27	104	1387	43
Pithomyces									
Polythrincium									
Pyricularia	2	27	<1						
Rusts									
Smuts/Periconia/Myxomy	2	27	<1	1	13	1			
Spegazzinia									
Stachybotrys									
Tetraploa									
Torula									
Zygomycetes									
Background debris (1-5)**	3			3			3		
Sample Volume(liters)	75			75			75		
TOTAL SPORES/M³	495	6630		90	1200		240	3200	

Comments:

Spore types listed without a count or data entry were not detected during the course of the analysis for the respective sample, indicating a raw count of <1 spore.

The analytical sensitivity is the spores/m³ divided by the raw count, expressed in spores/m³. The limit of detection is the analytical sensitivity

(in spores/m³) multiplied by the sample volume (in liters) divided by 1000 liters.

*Colorless,other Brown are spores without a distinctive morphology on spore traps and non-viable surface samples.

**Background debris is the amount of particulate matter present on the slide and is graded from 1-5 with 1 = very light, 2= Light, 3 = Medium, 4 = Heavy, 5 = Very Heavy. The higher the rating the more likelihood spores may be underestimated. A rating of 5 should be interpreted as minimal counts and may actually be higher than reported.

***Ulocladium has been recognized by the International Mycological Association to be equal to Alternaria and so they are reported as one.

Disclaimer: The sample results are determined by the sample volume, which is provided by the customer.

This report relates only to the samples tested as they were received.

Respectfully submitted, SEEML

Magzoub Ismail

Magzoub Ismail, Approved Laboratory Signatory

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Phone: 832-437-2667

Surface and Bulk Sample Report

AWA Environmental Testing		Date Sampled: 07/24/2024	
1860 White Oak Dr #376		Date Received: 07/25/2024	
Houston, TX, 77009		Date Analyzed: 07/25/2024	
817-739-4044		Date Reported: 07/25/2024	
		Date Revised:	
		Project Name: Katherine Labner	
		Project Address: 509 Gale St	
		Project City, State ZIP: Houston, TX 77009	
		SEEML Reference #: H-240725036	
TEST METHOD: Direct Microscopic Examination (SEEML SOP 18)			
Client Sample ID	2109311		
Location	Vent Swab		
SEEML Sample ID	H-240725036-147		
Sample Type	Swab		
	Quantification*		
Hyphal Fragments	VL		
Pollen			
General Impressions **	FG		
Miscellaneous Spores			
Fungal Growth:			
Acremonium			
Alternaria (=Ulocladium)			
Ascospores			
Basidiospores			
Bipolaris/Drechslera			
Cercospora			
Chaetomium			
Cladosporium	L		
Curvularia			
Epicoccum			
Fusarium			
Geotrichum sp.			
Memnoniella			
Myxomycetes			
Nigrospora			
Penicillium/Aspergillus			
Pithomyces			
Rusts			
Stachybotrys			
Torula			
Trichoderma			
Revisions:			

** General Impressions: NFG = No Fungal Growth, FG = Fungal Growth, MFG = Minimal Fungal Growth Or Growth in vicinity

Ulocladium has been recognized by the International Mycological Association to be equal to Alternaria and so they are reported as one.

Quantification of fungal growth is done by semi-quantitative grading using the following ranges:

Scattered Spores = 1-20 fungal spores

VL = 21-100 fungal spores

L = 101-1,000 fungal spores

M = 1,001-10,000 fungal spores

H = >10,000 fungal spores

ND = No Fungal Spores Detected

Disclaimer: This report relates only to the samples tested as received.

Respectfully submitted, SEEML

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AIHA LAP, LLC EMLAP #232339

Texas Lic: LAB1016

Form 46.0 Rev 5 02/03/22

Fungal Descriptions

Alternaria sp.

Aw - 0.89. Conidia dimensions: 18-83 x 7-18 microns. A very common allergen with an IgE mediated response. It is often found in carpets, textiles and on horizontal surfaces in building interiors. Often found on window frames. Outdoors it may be isolated from samples of soil, seeds and plants. It is commonly found in outdoor samples. The large spore size, 20 - 200 microns in length and 7 - 18 microns in sizes, suggests that the spores from these fungi will be deposited in the nose, mouth and upper respiratory tract. It may be related to bakers' asthma. It has been associated with hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

The species *Alternaria alternata* can produce tenuazonic acid and other toxic metabolites that may be associated with disease in humans or animals. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Acute symptoms include edema and bronchospasms; chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema.

Ascospore

A spore borne in a special cell called an ascus. Spores of this type are reported to be allergenic. All ascomycetes, members of a group of fungi called Ascomycotina, have this type of spore. The minute black dots on rotting wood and leaves or the little cups on lichens are examples of ascomycetes; another is the "truffle" mushroom.

Aspergillus/Penicillium

These are two of the most commonly found allergenic fungi in problem buildings. *Aspergillus* comes in many varieties (species). Many of the varieties produce toxic substances. It may be associated with symptoms such as sinusitis, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, and other allergic symptoms. *Penicillium* is a variety of mold that is very common indoors and is found in increased numbers in problem buildings. It also has many varieties, some of which produce toxic substances. The symptoms are allergic reactions, mucous membrane irritation, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea. Due to the morphological similarity of *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*, they are not differentiated by microscopic analysis and are reported together.

Aspergillus sp.

Aw 0.75 - 0.82. Reported to be allergenic. Members of this genus are reported to cause ear infections. Many species produce mycotoxins that may be associated with disease in humans and other animals. Toxin production is dependent on the species or a strain within a species and on the food source for the fungus. Some of these toxins have been found to be carcinogenic in animal species. Several toxins are considered potential human carcinogens. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Acute symptoms include edema and bronchospasms; chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema; may also be associated with sinusitis, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, and other allergic symptoms.

Aureobasidium

Aureobasidium pullulans is a ubiquitous and generalistic black, yeast-like fungus that can be found in different environments (e.g., soil, water, air, and limestone). It is well known as a naturally occurring epiphyte or endophyte of a wide range of plant species (e.g. apple, grape, cucumber, green beans, cabbage) without causing any symptoms of disease. *A. pullulans* has a high importance in biotechnology for the production of different enzymes, siderophores and pullulan. Furthermore, *A. pullulans* is used in biological control of plant diseases, especially storage diseases.

Chronic human exposure to *A. pullulans* via humidifiers or air conditioners can lead to hypersensitivity pneumonitis (extrinsic allergic alveolitis) or "humidifier lung". This condition is characterized acutely by dyspnea, cough, fever, chest infiltrates, and acute inflammatory reaction. The condition can also be chronic, and lymphocyte mediated. The chronic condition is characterized radiographically by reticulonodular infiltrates in the lung, with apical sparing. The strains causing infections in humans were reclassified to *A. melanogenum*.

Basidiospore

Spore from basidiomycetes. Many varieties are reported to be allergenic.

Bipolaris sp.

Aw 0.93. Conidia dimensions: 7-14 x 5-9 microns. It is parasitic on plants and soft fruits. Found in soil and on house plants and vegetables, it is also known as "gray mold". It causes leaf rot on grapes, strawberries, lettuce, etc. It is a well-known allergen, producing asthma type symptoms in greenhouse workers and "wine grower's lung".

Botrytis sp.

A fungus with large spores that could be expected to be deposited in the upper respiratory tract. This fungus can produce the mycotoxin - sterigmatocystin, which has been shown to produce liver and kidney damage when ingested by laboratory animals.

Cercaspora

Common outdoors in agricultural areas, especially during harvest. Parasite of higher plants, causing leaf spot. Commonly found as parasites on higher plants.

Chaetomium sp.

Large ascomycetous fungus producing perithecia. It is found on a variety of substrates containing cellulose, including paper and plant compost. It has been found on paper in sheetrock. It can produce an *Acremonium*-like state on fungal media. Varieties are considered allergenic and have been associated with peritonitis, cutaneous lesions, and system mycosis.

Cladosporium sp.

Aw 0.88; Aw 0.84. Most commonly identified outdoor fungus. The outdoor numbers are reduced in the winter. The numbers are often high in the summer. Often found indoors in numbers less than outdoor numbers. It is a common allergen. Indoor *Cladosporium* sp. may be different than the species identified outdoors. It is commonly found on the surface of fiberglass duct liners in the interior of supply ducts. A wide variety of plants are food sources for this fungus. It is found on dead plants, woody plants, food, straw, soil, paint, and textiles. Produces greater than 10 antigens. Antigens in commercial extracts are of variable quality and may degrade within weeks of preparation. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Acute symptoms include skin lesions, eye ulceration, mycosis (including onychomycosis, an infection of the nails of the feet or hands) edema and bronchospasms; chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema.

Curvularia sp.

Reported to be allergenic and has been associated with allergic fungal sinusitis. It may cause corneal infections, mycetoma, and infections in immune compromised hosts.

Dreschlera sp.

Conidia dimensions: 40-120 x 17-28 microns. Found on grasses, grains and decaying food. It can occasionally cause a corneal infection of the eye.

Epicoccum sp.

Conidia dimensions: 15-25 microns. A common allergen. It is found in plants, soil, grains, textiles and paper products.

Fusarium sp.

Aw 0.90. A common soil fungus. It is found on a wide range of plants. It is often found in humidifiers. Several species in this genus can produce potent trichothecene toxins. The trichothecene (scirpene) toxin targets the following systems: circulatory, alimentary, skin, and nervous. Produces vomitoxin on grains during unusually damp growing conditions. Symptoms may occur either through ingestion of contaminated grains or possibly inhalation of spores. The genera can produce hemorrhagic syndrome in humans (alimentary toxic aleukia). This is characterized by nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dermatitis, and extensive internal bleeding. Reported to be allergenic. Frequently involved in eye, skin, and nail infections.

Myxomycetes

Members of a group of fungi that is included in the category of "slime molds". They're occasionally found indoors, but mainly reside in forested regions on decaying logs, stumps, and dead leaves. Myxomycetes display characteristics of fungi *and* protozoans. In favorable (wet) conditions they exhibit motile, amoeba-like cells, usually bounded only by a plasma membrane, that are variable in size and form. During dry spells, they form a resting body (sclerotium) with dry, airborne spores. These fungi are not known to produce toxins but can cause hay fever and asthma.

Memnoniella

Contaminant found most often with *Stachybotrys* on wet cellulose. Forms in chains, but it are very similar to *Stachybotrys* and sometimes is considered to be in the *Stachybotrys* family. Certain species do produce toxins very similar to the ones produced by *Stachybotrys chartarum* and many consider the IAQ importance of *Memnoniella* to be on par with *Stachybotrys*. Allergenic and infectious properties are not well studied.

Nigrospora sp.

Commonly found in warm climates, this mold may be responsible for allergic reactions such as hay fever and asthma. It is found on decaying plant material and in the soil. It is not often found indoors.

Oidium sp.

The asexual phase of *Erysiphe* sp. It is a plant pathogen causing powdery mildews. It is very common on the leaf's stems, and flowers of plants. The health effects and allergenicity have not been studied. It does not grow on non-living surfaces such as wood or drywall.

Penicillium sp.

Aw 0.78 - 0.88. A wide number of organisms have been placed in this genus. Identification to species is difficult. Often found in aerosol samples. Commonly found in soil, food, cellulose and grains. It is also found in paint and compost piles. It may cause hypersensitivity pneumonitis, allergic alveolitis in susceptible individuals. It is reported to be allergenic (skin). It is commonly found in carpet, wallpaper, and in interior fiberglass duct insulation. Some species can produce mycotoxins. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Acute symptoms include edema and bronchospasms; chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema. It may also cause headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Periconia sp.

Periconia sp. are found in soil, blackened and dead herbaceous stems leaf spots, grasses, rushes, and sedges. Almost always associated with other fungi. Rarely found growing indoors. Reportedly associated with a rare case of mycotic keratitis.

Pithomyces sp.

A common mold found on dead leaves, plants, soil and especially grasses. Causes facial eczema in ruminants. It exhibits distinctive multi-celled brown conidia. It is not known to be a human allergen or pathogen. It is rarely found indoors, although it can grow on paper.

Rusts/Smuts

These fungi are associated with plant diseases. In the classification scheme of the fungi, the smuts have much in common with the rusts, and they are frequently discussed together. Both groups produce wind-borne, resistant teliospores that serve as the basis for their classification and their means of spread. Rusts usually attack vegetative regions (i.e., leaves and stems) of plants; smuts usually are associated with the reproductive structures (seeds). They can cause hay fever and asthma.

Spegazzinia

Spegazzinia species comprise a very small proportion of the fungal biota. This genus is somewhat related to other lobed or ornamented genera such as *Candelabrum*. No information is available regarding health effects or toxicity. Allergenicity has not been studied. Usually identified on spore trap samples where it is seen every few weeks. (Spores have very distinctive morphology.) May also be found in air by culturable (Andersen) samples if a long enough incubation period is provided so that sporulation occurs. Our laboratory has never found this organism growing on indoor environmental surfaces. Natural habitat includes soil and many kinds of trees and plants.

Sporotrichum

Sporotrichum species comprise a very small proportion of the fungal biota and are most closely related to other colorless hyphomycetes such as *Chrysosporium*. The only information available regarding health effects are a few rare cases of repeated isolations from respiratory secretions suggestive of bronchopulmonary colonization. No information is available regarding toxicity. Allergenicity has not been studied. May be identified on surfaces by tape lifts, tease mounts from bulk samples, and in air by culturable (Andersen) samples. Many times sporulating colorless fungi are very difficult to identify, with critical structures only very faintly visible under oil immersion magnification. Thus, these isolates may be placed in the category "Colorless, sporulating, ID unknown" on the Andersen report format. Spores do not have distinctive morphology and would be categorized as "other colorless" on spore trap samples. Natural habitat includes soil and decaying wood.

Stachybotrys sp.

Aw - 0.94, optimum Aw $\rightarrow$ 0.98. Several strains of this fungus (*S. atra*, *S. chartarum* and *S. alternans* are synonymous) may produce a trichothecene mycotoxin- Satratoxin H - which is poisonous by inhalation. The toxins are present on the fungal spores. This is a slow growing fungus on media. It does not compete well with other rapidly growing fungi. The dark colored fungus grows on building material with high cellulose content and low nitrogen content. Areas with a relative humidity above 55%, and are subject to temperature fluctuations, are ideal for toxin production. Individuals with chronic exposure to the toxin produced by this fungus reported cold and flu symptoms, sore throats, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue, dermatitis, intermittent local hair loss and generalized malaise. Other symptoms include coughs, rhinitis, nosebleed, a burning sensation in the nasal passages, throat, and lungs, and fever. The toxins produced by this fungus will suppress the immune system affecting the lymphoid tissue and the bone marrow. Animals injected with the toxin from this fungus exhibited the following symptoms: necrosis and hemorrhage within the brain, thymus, spleen, intestine, lung, heart, lymph node, liver, and kidney. Affects by absorption of the toxin in the human lung are known as pneumomycosis.

This organism is rarely found in outdoor samples. It is usually difficult to find in indoor air samples unless it is physically disturbed (or possibly -this is speculation- a drop in the relative humidity). The spores are in a gelatinous mass. Appropriate media for the growth of this organism will have high cellulose content and low nitrogen content. The spores will die readily after release. The dead spores are still allergenic and toxigenic. Percutaneous absorption has caused mild symptoms.

Stemphylium sp.

Reported to be allergenic. Isolated from dead plants and cellulose materials.

Torula sp.

Found outdoors in air, soil, on dead vegetation, wood, and grasses. Also found indoors on cellulose materials. Reported to be allergenic and may cause hay fever and asthma.

Tetraploa

Tetraploa species comprise a very small proportion of the fungal biota. This genus is somewhat related to *Triposporium* and *Diplocladiella*. The only reported human infections are two cases of keratitis (1970, 1980) and one case of subcutaneous infection of the knee (1990). No information is available regarding other health effects or toxicity. Allergenicity has not been studied. Usually identified on spore trap samples where it is seen every few weeks. (Spores have very distinctive morphology.) Our laboratory has never found this organism growing on indoor environmental surfaces. Natural habitat includes leaf bases and stems just above the soil on many kinds of plants and trees.

Ulocladium sp.

Aw 0.89. Isolated from dead plants and cellulose materials. Found on textiles.

Zygomycetes

Zygomycetes are one of the four major groups of fungi, the others being the Oomycetes, the Ascomycetes, and the Basidiomycetes. Zygomycetes are common, fast growing, and often overgrow and/or inhibit other fungi nearby. *Rhizopus* and *Mucor* are two of the most common Zygomycetes seen in the indoor environment. However, others are seen as well, including *Syncephalastrum*, *Circinella*, *Mortierella*, *Mycotypha*, *Cunninghamella*, and *Choanephora*. For further information, please see descriptions of these individual genera.

The following table lists mycotoxins that are produced by certain types of fungi:

Fungi	Mycotoxin
<i>Acremonium crocinigenum</i>	Crocin
<i>Aspergillus favus</i>	Alfatoxin B, cyclopiazonic acid
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	Fumagilin, gliotoxin
<i>Aspergillus carneus</i>	Citrinin
<i>Aspergillus clavatus</i>	Cytochalasin, patulin
<i>Aspergillus Parasiticus</i>	Alfatoxin B
<i>Aspergillus nomius</i>	Alfatoxin B
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Ochratoxin A, malformin, oxalic acid
<i>Acremonium crocinigenum</i>	Crocin
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Sterigmatocystin
<i>Aspergillus ochraceus</i>	Ochratoxin A, penicillic acid
<i>Aspergillus versicolor</i>	Sterigmatocystin, 5 ethoxysterigmatocystin
<i>Aspergillus ustus</i>	Ausdiol, austamide, austocystin, brevianamide
<i>Aspergillus terreus</i>	Citreoviridin
<i>Alternaria</i>	Alternariol, altertoxin, altenuene, altenusin, tenuazonic acid
<i>Arthrrium</i>	Nitropropionic acid
<i>Bioploaris</i>	Cytochalasin, sporidesmin, sterigmatocystin
<i>Chaetomium</i>	Chaetoglobosin A,B,C. Sterigmatocystin
<i>Cladosporium</i>	Cladosporic acid
<i>Clavipes purpurea</i>	Ergotism
<i>Cylindrocoryn</i>	Trichothecene
<i>Diplodia</i>	Diplodiatoxin
<i>Fusarium</i>	Trichothecene, zearalenone
<i>Fusarium moniliforme</i>	Fumonisin
<i>Emmericella nidulans</i>	Sterigmatocystin
<i>Gliocladium</i>	Gliotoxin
<i>Memmoniella</i>	Griseofulvin, dechlorogriseofulvin, epi-dechlorogriseofulvin, trichodermin, trichodermol
<i>Myrothecium</i>	Trichothecene
<i>Paecilomyces</i>	Patulin, viriditoxin
<i>Penicillium aurantiocandidum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium aurantiogriseum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium brasilanum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium brevicompactum</i>	Mycophenolic acid
<i>Penicillium camemberti</i>	Cyclopiazonic acid
<i>Penicillium carneum</i>	Mycophenolic acid, Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium crateriforme</i>	Rubratoxin

Fungi	Mycotoxin
<i>Penicillium citrinum</i>	Citrinin
<i>Penicillium commune</i>	Cyclopiazonic acid
<i>Penicillium crustosum</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium chrysogenum</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium discolor</i>	Chaetoglobosin C
<i>Penicillium expansum</i>	Citrinin, Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium griseofulvum</i>	Roquefortine C, cyclopiazonic acid, griseofulvin
<i>Penicillium hirsutum</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium hordei</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium nordicum</i>	Ochratoxin A
<i>Penicillium paneum</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium palitans</i>	Cyclopiazonic acid
<i>Penicillium polonicum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium roqueforti</i>	Roquefortine C, Mycophenolic acid
<i>Penicillium veridicatum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium verrucosum</i>	Citrinin, ochratoxin A
<i>Penicillium/ Aspergillus</i>	Patulin
<i>Penicillium/ Aspergillus/Alternaria</i>	Glitoxin
<i>Phomopsis</i>	Macrocyclic trichothecenes
<i>Phoma</i>	Brefeldin, cytochalasin, secalonin acid, tenuazonic acid
<i>Pithomyces</i>	Sporidesmin
<i>Rhizoctonia</i>	Slaframine
<i>Rhizopus</i>	Rhizonin
<i>Sclerotinia</i>	Furanocoumarins
<i>Stachybotrys chartarum</i>	Iso-satratoxin F, roridin E, L-2, satratoxin G & H, trichodermin, trichodermol, trichothecene
<i>Torula</i>	Cytotoxins
<i>Trichoderma</i>	Trichodermin, trichodermol, gliotoxin
<i>Trichothecium</i>	Trichothecene
<i>Wallemia</i>	Wallemiol
<i>Zygosporium</i>	Cytochalasin

General terms

Allergen

An allergen is a substance that elicits an IgE antibody response and is responsible for producing allergic reactions. Chemicals are released when IgE on certain cells contact an allergen. These chemicals can cause injury to surrounding tissue - the visible signs of an allergy. Only a few fungal allergens have been characterized but all fungi are thought to be potentially allergenic. Fungal allergens are proteins found in either the mycelium or spores

"Black mold"

A poorly defined term. Black mold or toxic black mold has usually been associated with the mold *Stachybotrys chartarum*. While there are only a few molds that are truly black, there are many that can appear black. Not all molds that appear to be black are *Stachybotrys*.

Fungi

Fungi are neither animals nor plants and are classified in a kingdom of their own. The Kingdom of Fungi. Fungi include a very large group of organisms, including molds, yeasts, mushrooms and puffballs. There are >100,000 accepted fungal species but current estimates range to 1.5 million species. Mycologists (people who study fungi) have grouped fungi into four large groups according to their method of reproduction.

Hidden mold

This refers to visible mold growth on building structures that is not easily seen, including the areas above drop ceilings, within a wall cavity (the space between the inner and outer structure of a wall), inside air handlers, or within the ducting of a heating/ventilation system.

Microbial Volatile Organic Compounds (MVOCs)

Fungi produce chemicals as a result of their metabolism. Some of these chemicals, MVOCs, are responsible for the characteristic moldy, musty, or earthy smell of fungi, whether mushrooms or molds. Some MVOCs are considered offensive or annoying. Specific MVOCs are thought to be characteristic of wood rot and mold growth on building materials. The human nose is very sensitive to mold odors and sometimes more so than current analytical instruments.

Mold

Molds are a group of organisms that belong to the Kingdom of Fungi (see Fungi). Even though the terms mold and fungi had been commonly referred to interchangeably, all molds are fungi, but not all fungi are molds.

Mycotoxin

Mycotoxins are compounds produced by some fungi that are toxic to humans or animals. By convention, the term? Mycotoxin. Excludes mushroom toxins. Fungi that produce mycotoxins are called "toxigenic fungi."

Spore

General term for a reproductive structure in fungi, bacteria and some plants. In fungi, the spore is the structure which may be used for dissemination and may be resistant to adverse environmental conditions.

Toxic mold

The term "toxic mold" has no scientific meaning since the mold itself is not toxic. The metabolic byproducts of some molds may be toxic (see mycotoxin).

Hypha (plural, hyphae)

An individual fungal thread or filament of connected cells; the thread that represents the individual parts of the fungal body.



Report for Client Kathryn Labner

509 Gale Street, Houston, TX

JOB #: 3366

Per your request, AWA Environmental has collected all appropriate information pertaining to the subject property and has successfully prepared and finalized a Mold Report. The assessment of the property was conducted on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 which included a visual assessment with direct samples being taken. Dry moisture staining will be distinguished from wet moisture stains by descriptions of active (above 20% WME) or inactive moisture stains.

Enclosed is our report which includes, appropriate site photographs, laboratory reports and analysis of the laboratory results from the samples collected during the inspection. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the home office with the number listed.

Home Office: (713) 401-9751

Respectfully Submitted,
Mario Prado



Purpose:

The purpose of the mold assessment was to determine the presence and extent of microbial growth and/or unusual moisture conditions in the building. The conclusions contained in this report are based on information obtained during the mold assessment, which included:

- ▶ Interviews of property representatives
- ▶ Visual observations
- ▶ A moisture survey
- ▶ Measurement of temperature and relative humidity
- ▶ Collection and laboratory analysis of direct samples

Assessment:

Client Name:	Kathryn Labner
Inspector:	Mario Prado
Location Address:	509 Gale Street, Houston TX. 77009
Inspection Date:	Wednesday, July 24, 2024
Time of Inspection:	4:00 PM
Outside Temperature:	93°
Outside Humidity:	64%
Outside Conditions:	Overcast/raining with light winds
Indoor Temperature:	73°
Indoor Humidity:	61%
# of air samples:	3
# of surface samples:	1

Professional Mold Remediation Recommended?

No



Interview

Client recently started noticing discoloration around the HVAC vents and had a previous inspection a few years prior for similar issue. Client started to notice changes in her personal health and requested a mold inspection to verify the extent of the possible microbial growth damage. All areas pertinent to the inspection were readily accessible throughout this inspection.

Conclusion

Lab analysis indicates a higher mold spore count in the “raw” column for the office versus the indoor sample taken in the living space, and the outdoor sample collected. The higher count is not alarming, however it would indicate that there may be a humidity issue for the office space. If water damage had previously intruded the office space, materials that were not repaired/replaced would need attention. The HVAC vent could likely be the cause of the elevation as well. Confer with an HVAC cleaning specialist to clean the ductwork and vents for areas where microbial growth is found.

Excellent ways of maintaining the indoor air quality are by keeping up with the regular maintenance of the HVAC system. This can be done by simply vacuuming and cleaning the HVAC exhaust and return vents, changing the filters regularly while also using the appropriate filtration, and ensuring the condensation drainage lines are kept free and clear of any microbial growth.

Ways to help improve the indoor air quality are by using HEPA air purifiers and dehumidifiers. When purchasing and using these devices, please refer to the manufacturers suggestion of machine capabilities to the appropriate room square footage.

Please contact mold assessor for any further questions or concerns.

Details

Outside

Elevated Moisture Levels	Visual Microbial Growth	Excessive Humidity	Water Damage
No	No	No	No

Observations

Out outdoor temperature and relative (rh) humidity levels recorded below. Air sample calibration set to 15 L/minutes. Outdoor air sample obtained for control variability.



93° with 64%rh outdoors



Air sample calibration set to 15 L/minutes



Outdoor sample ID 38671227

Details

Living space

Elevated Moisture Levels	Visual Microbial Growth	Excessive Humidity	Water Damage
No	Yes	Yes	No

Observations

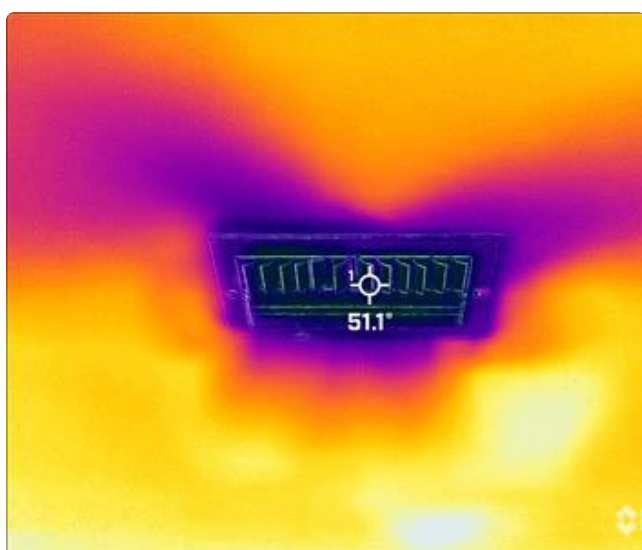
Microbial growth visualized on the HVAC vents throughout the home, including this living space. Humidity levels >55% Indoors. Infrared showed no thermal regularities. Air sample obtained to measure air quality.



Living space overview



HVAC vent overview



HVAC vent infrared



74° with 61%rh in the living space

Details

Living space



Living space air sample acquisition



Living space sample ID 3867 1243

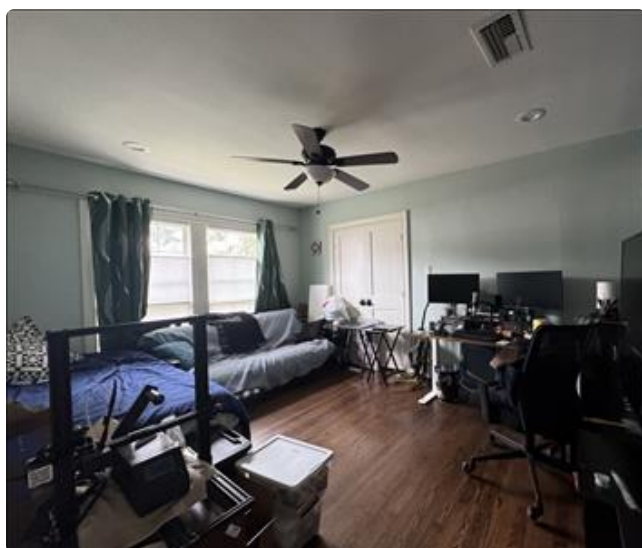
Details

Office

Elevated Moisture Levels	Visual Microbial Growth	Excessive Humidity	Water Damage
No	No	No	No

Observations

Microbial growth visualized on the HVAC vents throughout the home, including this Office space. Humidity levels >55% Indoors. Infrared showed no thermal regularities. Air sample obtained to measure air quality. Surface sample obtained to verify species of microbial growth on HVAC vent.



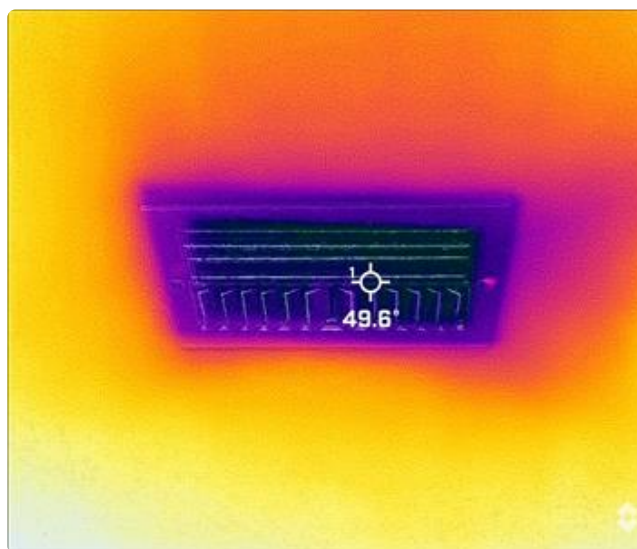
Office overview



73° with 63%rh in the office



HVAC vent overview



HVAC vent infrared

Details

Office



Close-up of microbial growth



Swab acquisition of microbial growth



Swab sample ID 2104311



Office space air sample acquisition

Details

Office



Office sample ID 3867 1253

Details

Attic

Elevated Moisture Levels	Visual Microbial Growth	Excessive Humidity	Water Damage
No	No	No	No

Observations

HVAC observed in the attic showing some minor signs of microbial growth. HVAC pan dry and free of rust.



HVAC overview



Dust/microbial growth on HVAC



Dry/rust free pan



Clean HVAC exhausts

Details

Attic



Secondary view of Exhaust



Limitations:

The visual inspection is limited to readily accessible areas only. We do not remove floor and wall coverings or move furniture, open walls or perform any type of destructive inspection, unless the client has signed a waiver. Certain structural areas are considered inaccessible and impractical to inspect including but not limited to: the interiors of walls an inaccessible areas below; areas beneath wood floors over concrete; areas concealed by floor coverings; and areasto which there is no access without defacing or tearing out lumber, masonry, roofing or finished workmanship; structures; portions of the attic concealed or made inaccessible by insulation, belongings, equipment or ducting; portions of the attic or roof cavity concealed due to inadequate crawl space; areas of the attic or crawl space made inaccessible due to construction; interiors of enclosed boxed eaves; portions of the sub area concealed or made inaccessible by ducting or insulation; enclosed bay windows; portions of the interior made inaccessible by furnishings; areas where locks prevented access; areas concealed by appliances; areas concealed by stored materials; and areas concealed by heavy vegetation. Note: there is no economically practical methodto make these areas accessible. However, they may be subject to attack by microbial organisms. No opinion is rendered concerning the conditions in these aforementioned or other inaccessible areas. Our findings and conclusions must be considered probabilities based upon professional judgment concerning the significance of the limited data gathered during the course of the investigation. You understand and agree that any claim(s) or complaint(s) arising out of or related to any alleged act or omission inconnection with the inspection shall be reported to us, in writing, within ten (10) business days of discovery. Unless there is an emergency condition, you agree to allow us a reasonable period of time to investigate the claim(s) or complaint(s) by, among other things, re-inspection before you, or anyone acting on your behalf, repairs, replaces, alters or modifies the system or component that is the subject matter of the claim. You understand and agree that any failure to timely notify us and allow adequate time to investigate as stated shall constitute a complete bar and waiver of any and all claims you may have against us related to the alleged act or omission unless otherwise prohibited by law. Any dispute arising from the Inspection and/or Report (unless based on payment of fee) shall be resolved by binding, non-appealable arbitration conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association, except that the parties shall mutually agree upon an Arbitrator who is familiar with the home inspection industry. Any legal action arising from the Inspection and/or Report, including (but not limited to) the arbitration proceeding, must be commenced within one (1) year from the date of the Report. Failure to bring such an action within this time period shall be a complete bar to any such action and a full and complete waiver of any rights or claims based thereon. This time limitation period may be shorter than provided by state law. It is understood and agreed that we and the lab are not insurers and, that the inspection and report to be provided under this indemnification shall not be construed as a guarantee or warranty of the adequacy, performance or condition of any structure, item, or system at the subject property. You hereby release and exempt us, the lab and our respective agents and employees of and from all liability and responsibility for the cost of repairing or replacing property damage or personal injury of any nature. In the event that we, the lab or our respective agents or employees are found liable due to breach of contract, breach of warranty, negligent misrepresentation, negligent hiring or any other theory of liability, then the cumulative aggregate total liability of us, the lab and our respective agents and employeeesshall be limited to a sum equal to the amount of the fee paid by you for the inspection and report. You understand that the inspection is being performed (and the report is being prepared) for your sole, confidential and exclusive benefit and use. The report, or any portion thereof, is not intended to benefit any person not a party to this indemnification, including (but not limited to) the seller or the real estate agent(s) involved in the real estate transaction ("third party"). If you directly or indirectly allow or cause the report or any portion thereof to be disclosed or distributed to any third party, you agree to indemnify, defend, and hold us harmless for any claims or actions based on the inspection or the report brought by the third party. We do not warrant that the assessment requested would satisfy the dictates of, or provide a legal defense in connection with, environmental laws or regulations.



AWA Environmental
1860 White Oak Dr. #376
Houston, TX 77009
(713) 401-9751
www.awamoldinspections.com

Agreement

AWA ENVIRONMENTAL
1860 White Oak Dr. #376, Houston, TX 77009
(855) 220-3900

Mold Inspection and Testing Agreement

This is an Agreement ("Agreement") between AWA Environmental, LLC ("INSPECTION COMPANY") and the undersigned client ("CLIENT"), collectively referred to herein as the "PARTIES." CLIENT agrees to employ the AWA ENVIRONMENTAL to perform a mold inspection as set forth herein. PLEASE READ BOTH SIDES CAREFULLY.

Address: The address of the property to be inspected:
509 Gale St Houston, TX 77009
This inspection is limited to the listed areas:
Outside, living space, office, attic

Comprehensive Inspection Fee: \$ 450.- Sampling Fee: (\$ 125.- each) X 1 = \$ 125.-
Expedite: (1 business day \$50 per sample) (2 business day \$25 per sample) \$ --- Total Fees: \$ 575.-

Fee: The fee for the visual inspection service is based on a single visit to the property.

Purpose: The purpose of the inspection is to attempt to detect the presence and extent of mold by performing a visual inspection of the property. Sampling may be necessary to confirm the presence of mold and/or to determine the extent. Sampling is recommended on a case by case basis. Samples are analyzed by a third-party laboratory.

Scope: The scope of the inspection is limited to the readily accessible areas of the property and is based on the condition of the property at the precise time and date of the inspection and on the laboratory analysis of the samples collected. Mold can exist in inaccessible areas such as behind walls and under carpeting. Furthermore, mold grows. As such, the report is not a guarantee that mold does or does not exist. The report is only indicative of the presence or absence of mold.

Limitation of Liability: It is understood the AWA ENVIRONMENTAL and the laboratory are not insurers and that the inspection, laboratory analysis and report shall not be construed as a guarantee or warranty of any kind. The CLIENT agrees to hold the AWA ENVIRONMENTAL and their respective officers, agents and employees harmless from and against any and all liabilities, demands, claims, and expenses incident thereto for injuries to persons and for loss of, damage to, destruction of property, cost of repairing or replacing, or consequential damage arising out of or in connection with this inspection. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE INSPECTION FEE PAID TO THE INSPECTOR IS NOMINAL GIVEN THE RISK OF LIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH PERFORMING HOME INSPECTIONS IF LIABILITY COULD NOT BE LIMITED. CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO LIMIT LIABILITY, THE INSPECTOR WOULD BE FORCED TO CHARGE CLIENT MUCH MORE THAN THE INSPECTION FEE FOR THE INSPECTOR'S SERVICES. CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGES BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THIS AGREEMENT REVIEWED BY COUNSEL OF HIS OR HER OWN CHOOSING AND FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIRING A DIFFERENT INSPECTOR TO PERFORM THE INSPECTION. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, CLIENT AGREES TO LIABILITY BEING LIMITED TO THE AMOUNT OF THE INSPECTION FEE PAID BY THE CLIENT (The limit of liability does apply in Texas)

By signing below, You acknowledge that YOU have read both sides of this Agreement, understand, and agree to the term and conditions of this agreement and agree to pay the fee listed above.

CLIENT PRINTED NAME Kathryn Lohner INSPECTOR PRINTED NAME Miguel Pardo
CLIENT SIGNATURE [Signature] x 7/24/24 INSPECTOR SIGNATURE [Signature] 7-24-24
DATE DATE
0309



SEEML Reference Number: H-230724028
--

Southeast Environmental Microbiology Laboratories

440 Cobia Drive Ste. 1901
Katy, TX. 77494
Phone: (832) 437-2667

The information and data for **AWA Environmental Testing** has been checked for thoroughness and accuracy. The following reports are contained within this document:

☐	Surface/Bulk Report	☐	Andersen Fungal Report
☒	Spore Trap Report	☐	Quantitative Fungal Report

Lab Manager Review: Magzoub Ismail Date: 07/24/2023

Thank you for using SEEML laboratories. We strive to provide superior quality and service. SEEML laboratories are accredited through AIHALAP, LLC (EMLAP #232339) for the analysis of Spore Traps and Surface/Bulk Samples and licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (LAB1016).

The data within this report is reliable to three significant figures. The third significant figure is technically unjustified. In this instance, the third figure is reported as an estimate to facilitate the interpretation by the customer.

Confidentiality Notice:

The document(s) contained herein are confidential and privileged information, intended for the exclusive use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of the document(s) is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error, please immediately notify us by telephone to arrange for its return. Thank you.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

No accepted quantitative regulatory standards currently exist by which to assess the health risks related to mold and bacterial exposure. Molds and bacteria have been associated with a variety of health effects and sensitivity varies from person to person.

Several organizations, including: the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH); the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA); the Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA); the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA); the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as the California Department of Health Services (CADHS), have all published guidelines for assessment and interpretation of mold resulting from water intrusion in buildings.

Interpretation of the data and information within this document is left to the company, consultant, and/or persons who conducted the fieldwork.

Spore Trap Report

AWA Environmental Testing	Date Sampled: 07/18/2023
1860 White Oak Dr. #376	Date Received: 07/24/2023
Houston, TX 77009	Date Analyzed: 07/24/2023
713-440-8208	Date Reported: 07/24/2023
	Date Revised:
	Project Name: Katherine Ladner
	Project Address: 509 Gale St
	Project City, State, ZIP: Houston, TX 77009
	SEEML Reference #: H-230724028

TEST METHOD: DIRECT MICROSCOPY EXAMINATION SEEML SOP 7

Client Sample ID	3631 1369			3631 1395					
Location	OC			Living Room					
Comment/Notes									
Lab Sample ID	H-230724028-097			H-230724028-098					
Detection Limit (spores/m ³)	13			13					
Hyphal Fragments	2	26		9	117				
Pollen	1	13							
Spore Trap Used	AOC			AOC					
	raw ct.	spores/m ³	%	raw ct.	spores/m ³	%			
Alternaria (=Ulocladium)	1	13	<1						
Ascospores	20	260	14	12	156	15			
Basidiospores	16	208	11						
Bipolaris/Drechslera									
Chaetomium									
Cladosporium	44	572	30						
Curvularia	3	39	2	20	260	25			
Epicoccum									
Cercospora									
Fusarium									
Memnoniella									
Nigrospora				4	52	5			
Penicillium/Aspergillus	64	832	43	40	520	50			
Polythrincium									
Rusts									
Smuts/Periconia/Myxomy				1	13	1			
Spegazzinia									
Stachybotrys									
Pyricularia				3	39	4			
Tetraploa									
Torula									
Trichoderma									
Colorless/Other Brown*									
Oidium									
Zygomycetes									
Pithomyces				1	13	1			
Background debris (1-5)**	3			3					
Sample Volume(liters)	75			75					
TOTAL SPORES/M³	148	1920		81	1050				

Revisions:

Comments:

Spore types listed without a count or data entry were not detected during the course of the analysis for the respective sample, indicating a raw count of <1 spore.

The analytical sensitivity is the spores/m³ divided by the raw count, expressed in spores/m³. The limit of detection is the analytical sensitivity

(in spores/m³) multiplied by the sample volume (in liters) divided by 1000 liters.

*Colorless,other Brown are spores without a distinctive morphology on spore traps and non-viable surface samples.

**Background debris is the amount of particulate matter present on the slide and is graded from 1-5 with 1 = very light, 2= Light, 3 = Medium, 4 = Heavy, 5 = Very Heavy.

The higher the rating the more likelihood spores may be underestimated. A rating of 5 should be interpreted as minimal counts and may actually be higher than reported.

***Ulocladium has been recognized by the International Mycological Association to be equal to Alternaria and so they are reported as one.

Disclaimer: The sample results are determined by the sample volume, which is provided by the customer.

This report relates only to the samples tested as they were received.

Respectfully submitted, SEEML

Magzoub Ismail

Magzoub Ismail, Approved Laboratory Signatory

440 Cobia Drive Ste. 1901

Katy, TX. 77494

Phone: (832) 437-2667

Fungal Descriptions

Alternaria sp.

Aw - 0.89. Conidia dimensions: 18-83 x 7-18 microns. A very common allergen with an IgE mediated response. It is often found in carpets, textiles and on horizontal surfaces in building interiors. Often found on window frames. Outdoors it may be isolated from samples of soil, seeds and plants. It is commonly found in outdoor samples. The large spore size, 20 - 200 microns in length and 7 - 18 microns in sizes, suggests that the spores from these fungi will be deposited in the nose, mouth and upper respiratory tract. It may be related to bakers' asthma. It has been associated with hypersensitivity pneumonitis. The species *Alternaria alternata* can produce tenuazonic acid and other toxic metabolites that may be associated with disease in humans or animals. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Acute symptoms include edema and bronchospasms; chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema.

Ascospore

A spore borne in a special cell called an ascus. Spores of this type are reported to be allergenic. All ascomycetes, members of a group of fungi called Ascomycotina, have this type of spore. The minute black dots on rotting wood and leaves or the little cups on lichens are examples of ascomycetes; another is the "truffle" mushroom.

Aspergillus/Penicillium

These are two of the most commonly found allergenic fungi in problem buildings. *Aspergillus* comes in many varieties (species). Many of the varieties produce toxic substances. It may be associated with symptoms such as sinusitis, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, and other allergic symptoms. *Penicillium* is a variety of mold that is very common indoors and is found in increased numbers in problem buildings. It also has many varieties, some of which produce toxic substances. The symptoms are allergic reactions, mucous membrane irritation, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea. Due to the morphological similarity of *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*, they are not differentiated by microscopic analysis and are reported together.

Aspergillus sp.

Aw 0.75 - 0.82. Reported to be allergenic. Members of this genus are reported to cause ear infections. Many species produce mycotoxins that may be associated with disease in humans and other animals. Toxin production is dependent on the species or a strain within a species and on the food source for the fungus. Some of these toxins have been found to be carcinogenic in animal species. Several toxins are considered potential human carcinogens. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Acute symptoms include edema and bronchospasms; chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema; may also be associated with sinusitis, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, and other allergic symptoms.

Basidiospore

Spore from basidiomycetes. Many varieties are reported to be allergenic.

Bipolaris sp.

A fungus with large spores that could be expected to be deposited in the upper respiratory tract. This fungus can produce the mycotoxin - sterigmatocystin, which has been shown to produce liver and kidney damage when ingested by laboratory animals.

Botrytis sp.

Aw 0.93. Conidia dimensions: 7-14 x 5-9 microns. It is parasitic on plants and soft fruits. Found in soil and on house plants and vegetables, it is also known as "gray mold". It causes leaf rot on grapes, strawberries, lettuce, etc. It is a well-known allergen, producing asthma type symptoms in greenhouse workers and "wine grower's lung".

Cercaspora

Common outdoors in agricultural areas, especially during harvest. Parasite of higher plants, causing leaf spot. Commonly found as parasites on higher plants.

Chaetomium sp.

large ascomycetous fungus producing perithecia. It is found on a variety of substrates containing cellulose, including paper and plant compost. It has been found on paper in sheetrock. It can produce an *Acremonium*-like state on fungal media. Varieties are considered allergenic and have been associated with peritonitis, cutaneous lesions, and system mycosis.

Cladosporium sp.

Aw 0.88; Aw 0.84. Most commonly identified outdoor fungus. The outdoor numbers are reduced in the winter. The numbers are often high in the summer. Often found indoors in numbers less than outdoor numbers. It is a common allergen. Indoor *Cladosporium* sp. may be different than the species identified outdoors. It is commonly found on the surface of fiberglass duct liners in the interior of supply ducts. A wide variety of plants are food sources for this fungus. It is found on dead plants, woody plants, food, straw, soil, paint, and textiles. Produces greater than 10 antigens. Antigens in commercial extracts are of variable quality and may degrade within weeks of preparation. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Acute symptoms include skin lesions, eye ulceration, mycosis (including onychomycosis, an infection of the nails of the feet or hands) edema and bronchospasms; chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema.

Curvularia sp.

Reported to be allergenic and has been associated with allergic fungal sinusitis. It may cause corneal infections, mycetoma, and infections in immune compromised hosts.

Dreschlera sp.

Conidia dimensions: 40-120 x 17-28 microns. Found on grasses, grains and decaying food. It can occasionally cause a corneal infection of the eye.

Epicoccum sp.

Conidia dimensions: 15-25 microns. A common allergen. It is found in plants, soil, grains, textiles and paper products.

Fusarium sp.

Aw 0.90. A common soil fungus. It is found on a wide range of plants. It is often found in humidifiers. Several species in this genus can produce potent trichothecene toxins. The trichothecene (scirpene) toxin targets the following systems: circulatory, alimentary, skin, and nervous. Produces vomitoxin on grains during unusually damp growing conditions. Symptoms may occur either through ingestion of contaminated grains or possibly inhalation of spores. The genera can produce hemorrhagic syndrome in humans (alimentary toxic aleukia). This is characterized by nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dermatitis, and extensive internal bleeding. Reported to be allergenic. Frequently involved in eye, skin, and nail infections.

Myxomycetes

Members of a group of fungi that is included in the category of "slime molds". They're occasionally found indoors, but mainly reside in forested regions on decaying logs, stumps, and dead leaves. Myxomycetes display characteristics of fungi *and* protozoans. In favorable (wet) conditions they exhibit motile, amoeba-like cells, usually bounded only by a plasma membrane, that are variable in size and form. During dry spells, they form a resting body (sclerotium) with dry, airborne spores. These fungi are not known to produce toxins but can cause hay fever and asthma.

Memnoniella

Contaminant found most often with *Stachybotrys* on wet cellulose. Forms in chains, but it are very similar to *Stachybotrys* and sometimes is considered to be in the *Stachybotrys* family. Certain species do produce toxins very similar to the ones produced by *Stachybotrys chartarum* and many consider the IAQ importance of *Memnoniella* to be on par with *Stachybotrys*. Allergenic and infectious properties are not well studied.

Nigrospora sp.

Commonly found in warm climates, this mold may be responsible for allergic reactions such as hay fever and asthma. It is found on decaying plant material and in the soil. It is not often found indoors.

Oidium sp.

The asexual phase of *Erysiphe* sp. It is a plant pathogen causing powdery mildews. It is very common on the leaf's stems, and flowers of plants. The health effects and allergenicity have not been studied. It does not grow on non-living surfaces such as wood or drywall.

Penicillium sp.

Aw 0.78 - 0.88. A wide number of organisms have been placed in this genus. Identification to species is difficult. Often found in aerosol samples. Commonly found in soil, food, cellulose and grains. It is also found in paint and compost piles. It may cause hypersensitivity pneumonitis, allergic alveolitis in susceptible individuals. It is reported to be allergenic (skin). It is commonly found in carpet, wallpaper, and in interior fiberglass duct insulation. Some species can produce mycotoxins. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Acute symptoms include edema and bronchospasms; chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema. It may also cause headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Periconia sp.

Periconia sp. are found in soil, blackened and dead herbaceous stems leaf spots, grasses, rushes, and sedges. Almost always associated with other fungi. Rarely found growing indoors. Reportedly associated with a rare case of mycotic keratitis.

Pithomyces sp.

A common mold found on dead leaves, plants, soil and especially grasses. Causes facial eczema in ruminants. It exhibits distinctive multi-celled brown conidia. It is not known to be a human allergen or pathogen. It is rarely found indoors, although it can grow on paper.

Rusts/Smuts

These fungi are associated with plant diseases. In the classification scheme of the fungi, the smuts have much in common with the rusts, and they are frequently discussed together. Both groups produce wind-borne, resistant teliospores that serve as the basis for their classification and their means of spread. Rusts usually attack vegetative regions (i.e., leaves and stems) of plants; smuts usually are associated with the reproductive structures (seeds). They can cause hay fever and asthma.

Spegazzinia

Spegazzinia species comprise a very small proportion of the fungal biota. This genus is somewhat related to other lobed or ornamented genera such as *Candelabrum*. No information is available regarding health effects or toxicity. Allergenicity has not been studied. Usually identified on spore trap samples where it is seen every few weeks. (Spores have very distinctive morphology.) May also be found in air by culturable (Andersen) samples if a long enough incubation period is provided so that sporulation occurs. Our laboratory has never found this organism growing on indoor environmental surfaces. Natural habitat includes soil and many kinds of trees and plants.

Stachybotrys sp.

Aw - 0.94, optimum Aw >0.98. Several strains of this fungus (*S. atra*, *S. chartarum* and *S. alternans* are synonymous) may produce a trichothecene mycotoxin- Satratoxin H - which is poisonous by inhalation. The toxins are present on the fungal spores. This is a slow growing fungus on media. It does not compete well with other rapidly growing fungi. The dark colored fungus grows on building material with high cellulose content and low nitrogen content. Areas with a relative humidity above 55%, and are subject to temperature fluctuations, are ideal for toxin production. Individuals with chronic exposure to the toxin produced by this fungus reported cold and flu symptoms, sore throats, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue, dermatitis, intermittent local hair loss and generalized malaise. Other symptoms include coughs, rhinitis, nosebleed, a burning sensation in the nasal passages, throat, and lungs, and fever. The toxins produced by this fungus will suppress the immune system affecting the lymphoid tissue and the bone marrow. Animals injected with the toxin from this fungus exhibited the following symptoms: necrosis and hemorrhage within the brain, thymus, spleen, intestine, lung, heart, lymph node, liver, and kidney. Affects by absorption of the toxin in the human lung are known as pneumomycosis.

This organism is rarely found in outdoor samples. It is usually difficult to find in indoor air samples unless it is physically disturbed (or possibly -this is speculation- a drop in the relative humidity). The spores are in a gelatinous mass. Appropriate media for the growth of this organism will have high cellulose content and low nitrogen content. The spores will die readily after release. The dead spores are still allergenic and toxigenic. Percutaneous absorption has caused mild symptoms.

Stemphylium sp.

Reported to be allergenic. Isolated from dead plants and cellulose materials.

Torula sp.

Found outdoors in air, soil, on dead vegetation, wood, and grasses. Also found indoors on cellulose materials. Reported to be allergenic and may cause hay fever and asthma.

Tetraploa

Tetraploa species comprise a very small proportion of the fungal biota. This genus is somewhat related to *Triposporium* and *Diplocladiella*. The only reported human infections are two cases of keratitis (1970, 1980) and one case of subcutaneous infection of the knee (1990). No information is available regarding other health effects or toxicity. Allergenicity has not been studied. Usually identified on spore trap samples where it is seen every few weeks. (Spores have very distinctive morphology.) Our laboratory has never found this organism growing on indoor environmental surfaces. Natural habitat includes leaf bases and stems just above the soil on many kinds of plants and trees.

Zygomycetes

Zygomycetes are one of the four major groups of fungi, the others being the Oomycetes, the Ascomycetes, and the Basidiomycetes. Zygomycetes are common, fast growing, and often overgrow and/or inhibit other fungi nearby. *Rhizopus* and *Mucor* are two of the most common Zygomycetes seen in the indoor environment. However, others are seen as well, including *Syncephalastrum*, *Circinella*, *Mortierella*, *Mycotypha*, *Cunninghamella*, and *Choanephora*. For further information, please see descriptions of these individual genera.

The following table lists mycotoxins that are produced by certain types of fungi:

Fungi	Mycotoxin
<i>Acremonium crotonigenum</i>	Crotonin
<i>Aspergillus favus</i>	Alfatoxin B, cyclopiazonic acid
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	Fumagilin, gliotoxin
<i>Aspergillus carneus</i>	Citrinin
<i>Aspergillus clavatus</i>	Cytochalasin, patulin
<i>Aspergillus Parasiticus</i>	Alfatoxin B
<i>Aspergillus nomius</i>	Alfatoxin B
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Ochratoxin A, malformin, oxalic acid
<i>Acremonium crotonigenum</i>	Crotonin
<i>Aspergillus nidulans</i>	Sterigmatocystin
<i>Aspergillus ochraceus</i>	Ochratoxin A, penicillic acid
<i>Aspergillus versicolor</i>	Sterigmatocystin, 5 ethoxysterigmatocystin
<i>Aspergillus ustus</i>	Ausdiol, austamide, austocystin, brevianamide
<i>Aspergillus terreus</i>	Citreoviridin
<i>Alternaria</i>	Alternariol, altertoxin, altenuene, altenusin, tenuazonic acid
<i>Arthrinium</i>	Nitropropionic acid
<i>Bioploaris</i>	Cytochalasin, sporidesmin, sterigmatocystin
<i>Chaetomium</i>	Chaetoglobosin A,B,C. Sterigmatocystin
<i>Cladosporium</i>	Cladosporic acid
<i>Clavipes purpurea</i>	Ergotism
<i>Cylindrocoryn</i>	Trichothecene
<i>Diplodia</i>	Diplodiatoxin
<i>Fusarium</i>	Trichothecene, zearalenone
<i>Fusarium moniliforme</i>	Fumonisin
<i>Emmericella nidulans</i>	Sterigmatocystin
<i>Gliocladium</i>	Gliotoxin
<i>Memnoniella</i>	Griseofulvin, dechlorogriseofulvin, epi-dechlorogriseofulvin, trichodermin, trichodermol
<i>Myrothecium</i>	Trichothecene
<i>Paecilomyces</i>	Patulin, viriditoxin
<i>Penicillium aurantiocandidum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium aurantiogriseum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium brasilianum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium brevicompactum</i>	Mycophenolic acid
<i>Penicillium camemberti</i>	Cyclopiazonic acid
<i>Penicillium carneum</i>	Mycophenolic acid, Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium crateriforme</i>	Rubratoxin

Fungi	Mycotoxin
<i>Penicillium citrinum</i>	Citrinin
<i>Penicillium commune</i>	Cyclopiazonic acid
<i>Penicillium crustosum</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium chrysogenum</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium discolor</i>	Chaetoglobosin C
<i>Penicillium expansum</i>	Citrinin, Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium griseofulvum</i>	Roquefortine C, cyclopiazonic acid, griseofulvin
<i>Penicillium hirsutum</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium hordei</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium nordicum</i>	Ochratoxin A
<i>Penicillium paneum</i>	Roquefortine C
<i>Penicillium palitans</i>	Cyclopiazonic acid
<i>Penicillium polonicum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium roqueforti</i>	Roquefortine C, Mycophenolic acid
<i>Penicillium veridicatum</i>	Penicillic acid
<i>Penicillium verrucosum</i>	Citrinin, ochratoxin A
<i>Penicillium/ Aspergillus</i>	Patulin
<i>Penicillium/ Aspergillus/Alternaria</i>	Glitoxin
<i>Phomopsis</i>	Macrocyclic trichothecenes
<i>Phoma</i>	Brefeldin, cytochalasin, secalonin acid, tenuazonic acid
<i>Pithomyces</i>	Sporidesmin
<i>Rhizoctonia</i>	Slaframine
<i>Rhizopus</i>	Rhizonin
<i>Sclerotinia</i>	Furanocoumarins
<i>Stachybotrys chartarum</i>	Iso-satratoxin F, roridin E, L-2, satratoxin G & H, trichodermin, trichodermol, trichothecene
<i>Torula</i>	Cytotoxins
<i>Trichoderma</i>	Trichodermin, trichodermol, gliotoxin
<i>Trichothecium</i>	Trichothecene
<i>Wallemia</i>	Wallemiol
<i>Zygosporium</i>	Cytochalasin

General terms

Allergen

An allergen is a substance that elicits an IgE antibody response and is responsible for producing allergic reactions. Chemicals are released when IgE on certain cells contact an allergen. These chemicals can cause injury to surrounding tissue - the visible signs of an allergy. Only a few fungal allergens have been characterized but all fungi are thought to be potentially allergenic. Fungal allergens are proteins found in either the mycelium or spores

"Black mold"

A poorly defined term. Black mold or toxic black mold has usually been associated with the mold *Stachybotrys chartarum*. While there are only a few molds that are truly black, there are many that can appear black. Not all molds that appear to be black are *Stachybotrys*.

Fungi

Fungi are neither animals nor plants and are classified in a kingdom of their own. The Kingdom of Fungi. Fungi include a very large group of organisms, including molds, yeasts, mushrooms and puffballs. There are >100,000 accepted fungal species but current estimates range to 1.5 million species. Mycologists (people who study fungi) have grouped fungi into four large groups according to their method of reproduction.

Hidden mold

This refers to visible mold growth on building structures that is not easily seen, including the areas above drop ceilings, within a wall cavity (the space between the inner and outer structure of a wall), inside air handlers, or within the ducting of a heating/ventilation system.

Microbial Volatile Organic Compounds (MVOCs)

Fungi produce chemicals as a result of their metabolism. Some of these chemicals, MVOCs, are responsible for the characteristic moldy, musty, or earthy smell of fungi, whether mushrooms or molds. Some MVOCs are considered offensive or annoying. Specific MVOCs are thought to be characteristic of wood rot and mold growth on building materials. The human nose is very sensitive to mold odors and sometimes more so than current analytical instruments.

Mold

Molds are a group of organisms that belong to the Kingdom of Fungi (see Fungi). Even though the terms mold and fungi had been commonly referred to interchangeably, all molds are fungi, but not all fungi are molds.

Mycotoxin

Mycotoxins are compounds produced by some fungi that are toxic to humans or animals. By convention, the term? Mycotoxin. Excludes mushroom toxins. Fungi that produce mycotoxins are called "toxigenic fungi."

Spore

General term for a reproductive structure in fungi, bacteria and some plants. In fungi, the spore is the structure which may be used for dissemination and may be resistant to adverse environmental conditions.

Toxic mold

The term "toxic mold" has no scientific meaning since the mold itself is not toxic. The metabolic byproducts of some molds may be toxic (see mycotoxin).

Hypha (plural, hyphae)

An individual fungal thread or filament of connected cells; the thread that represents the individual parts of the fungal body.



Report for Client Katherine Labner

509 Gale Street, Houston, TX

JOB #: 3014

Per your request, AWA Environmental has collected all appropriate information pertaining to the subject property and has successfully prepared and finalized a Mold Report. The assessment of the property was conducted on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 which included a visual assessment with direct samples being taken. Dry moisture staining will be distinguished from wet moisture stains by descriptions of active (above 20% WME) or inactive moisture stains.

Enclosed is our report which includes, appropriate site photographs, laboratory reports and analysis of the laboratory results from the samples collected during the inspection. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the home office with the number listed.

Home Office: (713) 401-9751

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew Whitney



Purpose:

The purpose of the mold assessment was to determine the presence and extent of microbial growth and/or unusual moisture conditions in the building. The conclusions contained in this report are based on information obtained during the mold assessment, which included:

- ▶ Interviews of property representatives
- ▶ Visual observations
- ▶ A moisture survey
- ▶ Measurement of temperature and relative humidity
- ▶ Collection and laboratory analysis of direct samples

Assessment:

Client Name:	Katherine Labner
Inspector:	Andrew Whitney
Location Address:	509 Gale Street, Houston TX. 77009
Inspection Date:	Tuesday, July 18, 2023
Time of Inspection:	9:00 AM
Outside Temperature:	84°
Outside Humidity:	80%
Outside Conditions:	Warm Sunny
Indoor Temperature:	76°
Indoor Humidity:	64%
# of air samples:	2
# of surface samples:	0

Professional Mold Remediation Recommended?

No



AWA Environmental

1860 White Oak Dr. #376

Houston, TX 77009

(713) 401-9751

www.awamoldinspections.com

Interview

Client described visual microbial growth on air vents and a previous leak stemming from compromised flashing. Client contacted AWA Environmental for inspection.

Conclusion

Air sample in living room returned elevated spore counts for *Curvularia*. Elevated moisture, water damage and visual microbial growth present on air vents. Recommend consulting a roofing specialist to examine roof. Recommend removal of all water damaged building material. Recommend consulting an HVAC technician to examine HVAC unit and determine cause of high humidity in the household. Licensed professional mold remediation is not recommended at this time.

Details

Living room

Elevated Moisture Levels	Visual Microbial Growth	Excessive Humidity	Water Damage
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Observations

Visual microbial growth on air vent and ceiling. Elevated moisture on ceiling. Water damage present. Humidity at 64%. Air sample taken.



Elevated moisture, visual microbial growth, water damage



Visual microbial growth



Air sample id with rh



Air sample taken

Details

Attic

Elevated Moisture Levels	Visual Microbial Growth	Excessive Humidity	Water Damage
No	No	No	Yes

Observations

Water damage from previous leak present. No elevated moisture. No visual microbial growth.



Water damage

Details

Outside

Elevated Moisture Levels	Visual Microbial Growth	Excessive Humidity	Water Damage
No	No	No	No

Observations

Outside control air sample taken.



Air sample id with rh



Air sample taken



Limitations:

The visual inspection is limited to readily accessible areas only. We do not remove floor and wall coverings or move furniture, open walls or perform any type of destructive inspection, unless the client has signed a waiver. Certain structural areas are considered inaccessible and impractical to inspect including but not limited to: the interiors of walls an inaccessible areas below; areas beneath wood floors over concrete; areas concealed by floor coverings; and areasto which there is no access without defacing or tearing out lumber, masonry, roofing or finished workmanship; structures; portions of the attic concealed or made inaccessible by insulation, belongings, equipment or ducting; portions of the attic or roof cavity concealed due to inadequate crawl space; areas of the attic or crawl space made inaccessible due to construction; interiors of enclosed boxed eaves; portions of the sub area concealed or made inaccessible by ducting or insulation; enclosed bay windows; portions of the interior made inaccessible by furnishings; areas where locks prevented access; areas concealed by appliances; areas concealed by stored materials; and areas concealed by heavy vegetation. Note: there is no economically practical methodto make these areas accessible. However, they may be subject to attack by microbial organisms. No opinion is rendered concerning the conditions in these aforementioned or other inaccessible areas. Our findings and conclusions must be considered probabilities based upon professional judgment concerning the significance of the limited data gathered during the course of the investigation. You understand and agree that any claim(s) or complaint(s) arising out of or related to any alleged act or omission inconnection with the inspection shall be reported to us, in writing, within ten (10) business days of discovery. Unless there is an emergency condition, you agree to allow us a reasonable period of time to investigate the claim(s) or complaint(s) by, among other things, re-inspection before you, or anyone acting on your behalf, repairs, replaces, alters or modifies the system or component that is the subject matter of the claim. You understand and agree that any failure to timely notify us and allow adequate time to investigate as stated shall constitute a complete bar and waiver of any and all claims you may have against us related to the alleged act or omission unless otherwise prohibited by law. Any dispute arising from the Inspection and/or Report (unless based on payment of fee) shall be resolved by binding, non-appealable arbitration conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association, except that the parties shall mutually agree upon an Arbitrator who is familiar with the home inspection industry. Any legal action arising from the Inspection and/or Report, including (but not limited to) the arbitration proceeding, must be commenced within one (1) year from the date of the Report. Failure to bring such an action within this time period shall be a complete bar to any such action and a full and complete waiver of any rights or claims based thereon. This time limitation period may be shorter than provided by state law. It is understood and agreed that we and the lab are not insurers and, that the inspection and report to be provided under this indemnification shall not be construed as a guarantee or warranty of the adequacy, performance or condition of any structure, item, or system at the subject property. You hereby release and exempt us, the lab and our respective agents and employees of and from all liability and responsibility for the cost of repairing or replacing property damage or personal injury of any nature. In the event that we, the lab or our respective agents or employees are found liable due to breach of contract, breach of warranty, negligent misrepresentation, negligent hiring or any other theory of liability, then the cumulative aggregate total liability of us, the lab and our respective agents and employeeesshall be limited to a sum equal to the amount of the fee paid by you for the inspection and report. You understand that the inspection is being performed (and the report is being prepared) for your sole, confidential and exclusive benefit and use. The report, or any portion thereof, is not intended to benefit any person not a party to this indemnification, including (but not limited to) the seller or the real estate agent(s) involved in the real estate transaction ("third party"). If you directly or indirectly allow or cause the report or any portion thereof to be disclosed or distributed to any third party, you agree to indemnify, defend, and hold us harmless for any claims or actions based on the inspection or the report brought by the third party. We do not warrant that the assessment requested would satisfy the dictates of, or provide a legal defense in connection with, environmental laws or regulations.



AWA Environmental
1860 White Oak Dr. #376
Houston, TX 77009
(713) 401-9751
www.awamoldinspections.com

Agreement

AWA ENVIRONMENTAL
1860 White Oak Dr. #376, Houston, TX 77009
(855) 228-1900

Mold Inspection and Testing Agreement

This is an Agreement ("Agreement") between AWA Environmental, LLC ("INSPECTION COMPANY") and the undersigned client ("CLIENT"), collectively referred to herein as the "PARTIES". CLIENT agrees to employ the AWA ENVIRONMENTAL to perform a mold inspection as set forth herein. PLEASE READ BOTH SIDES CAREFULLY.

Address: The address of the property to be inspected:
509 Gale St Houston TX 77009

This inspection is limited to the listed areas:
Whole house

Comprehensive Inspection Fee: \$ 450 Sampling Fee: (\$ 125 each) X 0 = \$ 0
Expedite: (1 business day \$50 per sample) (2 business day \$25 per sample) \$ _____ Total Fees: \$ 450

Fee: The fee for the visual inspection service is based on a single visit to the property.

Purpose: The purpose of the inspection is to attempt to detect the presence and extent of mold by performing a visual inspection of the property. Sampling may be necessary to confirm the presence of mold and/or to determine the extent. Sampling is recommended on a case by case basis. Samples are analyzed by a third-party laboratory.

Scope: The scope of the inspection is limited to the readily accessible areas of the property and is based on the condition of the property at the precise time and date of the inspection and on the laboratory analysis of the samples collected. Mold can exist in inaccessible areas such as behind walls and under carpeting. Furthermore, mold grows. As such, the report is not a guarantee that mold does or does not exist. The report is only indicative of the presence or absence of mold.

Limitation of Liability: It is understood the AWA ENVIRONMENTAL and the laboratory are not insurers and that the inspection, laboratory analysis and report shall not be construed as a guarantee or warranty of any kind. The CLIENT agrees to hold the AWA ENVIRONMENTAL and their respective officers, agents and employees harmless from and against any and all liabilities, demands, claims, and expenses incident thereto for injuries to persons and for loss of, damage to, destruction of property, cost of repairing or replacing, or consequential damage arising out of or in connection with this inspection. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE INSPECTION FEE PAID TO THE INSPECTOR IS NOMINAL GIVEN THE RISK OF LIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH PERFORMING HOME INSPECTIONS IF LIABILITY COULD NOT BE LIMITED. CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO LIMIT LIABILITY, THE INSPECTOR WOULD BE FORCED TO CHARGE CLIENT MUCH MORE THAN THE INSPECTION FEE FOR THE INSPECTOR'S SERVICES. CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGES BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THIS AGREEMENT REVIEWED BY COUNSEL OF HIS OR HER OWN CHOOSING AND FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIRING A DIFFERENT INSPECTOR TO PERFORM THE INSPECTION. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, CLIENT AGREES TO LIABILITY BEING LIMITED TO THE AMOUNT OF THE INSPECTION FEE PAID BY THE CLIENT. The limit of liability does apply in Texas.

By signing below, You acknowledge that YOU have read both sides of this Agreement, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of this agreement and agree to pay the fee listed above.

Kathryn Latner CLIENT PRINTED NAME
[Signature] CLIENT SIGNATURE

Alex Lubliner INSPECTOR PRINTED NAME
[Signature] INSPECTOR SIGNATURE

7/18/23 DATE
7-18 DATE