



## Inspection and Assessment of Mold

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Mold is a fungus that is naturally occurring in the environment. It can be found inside well-maintained homes and growing in the most natural ecosystems. Florida's warm climate and high humidity serve as ideal breeding grounds for mold and mildew.

This issue has been brought to the forefront in Florida with the damage caused by recent hurricanes and tropical storms. Once roofs were damaged, windows blown out or structures partially demolished; water damage and exposure to the elements was prevalent. In these conditions, mold and mildew spores flourish and if not controlled; will multiply quickly. In some cases, significant amounts of mold spores have caused serious allergic and respiratory conditions in humans; not to mention the property damage mold growth can cause.

At the present time, no certification is required for mold sampling, assessment, or abatement in Florida. However, the Florida House of Representatives proposed House Bill 0117 in 2005 to address Mold Assessment and Mold Remediation. This proposed bill outlines requirements for certification, continuing education and training,

and fees so that the state can maintain a record of certified Mold Professionals. The proposed bill goes on to define Mold, Mold Assessment and Mold Remediation in detail. This proposed bill is evidence that the state is taking notice of the increase in Mold Assessment and Removal; and also the need to have experienced Environmental Professionals perform the assessments and remediation. FER, INC. has performed numerous mold assessments for a variety of clients throughout the state.

In March 2005, FER staff attended a mold training course titled "Mold & Remediation for Environmental Professionals" at the University of Florida's TREEO Center. We also work regularly with Dr. James Kimbrough, Mycologist with the University of Florida and a man many consider a prominent expert in the field of mold and fungi. This type of training course and expert consultation is essential to our firm because we are always trying to provide our clients with the best knowledge and most current information available. If you have any questions about Mold or Indoor Air Quality in general, please give one of our offices a call.