



Kia ora, and welcome to Week 2 of our Schools Newsletter

We hope everyone's first week back went off without a hitch and that everyone is settling into the new school year with ease. With such a positive response to our first newsletter ([if you missed it, you can find it here](#)), we're looking forward to continuing the momentum with this week's edition, looking into a nasty but persistent issue...*Mould*.

Mould: When it's a hazard

With over 100,000 different types of mould, being able to determine which are benign and which are not, isn't the easiest task. Only a small fraction of all mould types is considered highly pathogenic, meaning they produce mycotoxins that are dangerous to humans and animals. These moulds do not need to be touched to be dangerous. Ventilation systems, open windows and doors or even walking through a space where mould spores are present can disturb the air enough to release harmful mycotoxins. These mycotoxins are microscopic, you will not be aware that you are inhaling these deep into your lungs, absorbing them through your skin or ingesting them.

Inhalation of these mycotoxins has been associated with symptoms such as fatigue, headaches, 'brain fog' & respiratory issues. Absorption through touch can cause irritations such as allergic reactions, hives & eczema.

Mould Prevention

The most important step in preventing mould is to control moisture by ventilating spaces well, especially in wet areas such as toilet blocks and changing rooms.

- Ensure spaces are allowed to 'breathe' by opening windows and doors for a few hours every day, even when not in continuous use.
- Use ventilation systems and dehumidifiers if available and clean filters regularly.
- Wipe away condensation and keep surfaces dry.
- Do not place any furniture or objects directly against wall surfaces, allow for air flow.
- Regularly check for plumbing leaks in wet areas and address any issues immediately.
- Regularly check for water ingress, especially around windows & external walls & doors.



Mould Remediation

WorkSafe NZ provides guidelines for cleaning mould ([found here](#)) but recommends using experienced professionals for extensive and/or serious contamination. This is because professionals are required to follow industry standards ([ANSI/IICRC S520](#)) ensuring any remediation is thorough, carried out correctly and most importantly, it protects the well-being of your staff, tamariki & facility.

If your facility has experienced any of the following you may need to call an Indoor Environmental Professional (IEP).



- A flooding event, natural or otherwise
- A plumbing leak
- A persistent musty odour
- Mould that keeps coming back despite preventative measures
- There is visible mould

An IEP can undertake testing to determine mould type/s and test air quality. If required, you can then contact a mould remediation specialist who will be able to provide a full decontamination of the affected area/s.

Make sure your chosen remediation specialist is a current IICRC Applied Microbial Remediation Technician employed by a registered IICRC company.

We hope you found this newsletter informative and helpful; it is the goal of CSS to support our schools and their communities in better understanding common risks and to plan ahead with confidence. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to CSS on 09 828 1731 and one of our team will be happy to assist you today.

Next Week... Biohazards : different types & health risks.

Protect your property. Protect your people. Stay compliant with CSS.

 **CSS Emergency Response:** 09 828 1731

 **Learn More:** <https://cssnz.co.nz/health-safety-excellence/>

Stay Safe,
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