Seal It
Insulation Systems
"Green and Growing in Maine"

Mold, Dust and Allergens

Stop Moisture to Stop Mold

Not surprisingly, IAQ (Indoor Air Quality) and mold experts say the solutions most likely to remedy mold problems are those that control moisture infiltration into a home, as well as condensation and humidity within a home. These include improved mechanical ventilation systems (95%), *insulation and air barrier systems (91%)* and exterior moisture control systems (88%).

Several proven technologies and practices are making it easier to address less visible forms of moisture and condensation transportation into a home. Among the most effective of these is open and closed cell spray foam Insulation, which are meeting the stringent IAQ standards of healthy building projects such as American Lung Association Health Houses."

Spray Foam insulation creates a complete, or near complete air barrier to minimize airborne moisture infiltration and condensation across the building envelope and works with a properly designed HVAC and ventilation system to help control humidity and optimize indoor air quality.

Potential Health Risks from Poor IAQ

IAQ and mold professionals draw a clear connection between mold and poor indoor air quality, along with their negative effects. **More than 90 percent of those surveyed believe poor indoor air is always, frequently or occasionally linked to mold and moisture problems. As with mold, more than three-quarters of respondents say indoor air quality problems have grown over the last three years and nearly as many expect them to get worse in the next three years.**

Experts dealing with mold and poor IAQ first-hand warn that the consequences of not dealing with poor indoor air quality can include health risks (86%), increased costs to remediate the problem (85%), wasted time and money on cover-up measures (81%) and potential legal issues (73%).

Homeowners Most at Risk

The study found that a large number of homeowners could be at risk for the consequences of mold and poor indoor air quality. Experts surveyed say residential buildings are the most frequent setting for both mold (82%) and indoor air quality (61%) problems. Furthermore, 80 percent of respondents say that, in their experience, at least one in five homes have a mold/moisture problem and nearly half (42%) say four out of 10 homes have a mold problem. Areas of homes seen as most susceptible to mold include basements (56%), bathrooms (53%) and exterior walls (47%). Specific building materials where mold is most often found include drywall (98%), wall coverings (89%), floor joists (82%), sub-flooring (73%), duct work (69%) and insulation (67%).

Need for Education

The study found there is a need for more education on how to prevent and deal with mold and poor indoor air quality. When asked what things would most likely manage the risk of poor indoor air quality, better education of building owners and professionals topped the list. The potential positive role education can play is also reflected in the fact all respondents have seen mold/moisture problems misdiagnosed or ignored. Nearly two-thirds (65%) say they have seen these problems misdiagnosed/ignored more than 20 times and more than half (56%) have seen problems misdiagnosed/ignored more than 30 times.

Dust and Allergens

Open Cell Spray Foam Insulation provides a sealed thermal envelope. When applied, the insulation conforms and fills each cavity, crevice and void. Open Cell Foam Insulation contributes to the overall comfort and health of the occupants of a home because there are no fibers or "clumps" of loose matter. By reducing air infiltration, the insulation also reduces dust and harmful household mold and mildew. Open Cell Foam Insulation provides a healthier, draft-free, indoor environment with no harmful emissions that can cause allergic reactions.