



## EPA “Tools for Schools”

# Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

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## Mold and Moisture

Moisture problems in school buildings can be caused by a variety of conditions including roof and plumbing leaks, condensation, and excess humidity. Some moisture problems in schools have been linked to changes in building construction practices during the past twenty to thirty years. These changes have resulted in more tightly sealed buildings that may not allow moisture to escape easily.

Moisture problems in schools are also associated with delayed maintenance or insufficient maintenance, due to budget and other constraints. Temporary structures in schools, such as trailers and portable classrooms, have frequently been associated with moisture and mold problems.

When mold growth occurs in buildings, it may be followed by reports of health symptoms from some building occupants, particularly those with allergies, asthma, or respiratory problems. Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints. If mold is a problem in your school, you should clean up the mold and eliminate sources of moisture.

