



Standard Guide for Assessment Of Fungal Growth in Buildings¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide provides a compendium of information and a menu of options for assessment of fungal growth in buildings, but does not recommend a specific course of action. Due to the wide variety of fungal problems affecting buildings and their occupants, and the wide variety of buildings, it is not possible to describe a set of uniform steps that will always be performed during an assessment (that is, a standard practice); therefore the user of this guide must decide which steps are appropriate for a given situation or building.

1.2 This guide is specific to fungal growth, which is only one potential problem in a building environment. It may be part of, but is not intended to take the place of, a comprehensive indoor air quality investigation.

1.3 This guide describes minimum steps and procedures for collecting background information on a building in question, procedures for evaluating the potential for moisture infiltration or collection, procedures for inspection for suspect fungal growth, and procedures beyond the scope of a basic survey that may be useful for specific problems.

1.4 Assessments for fungal growth may be useful wherever fungal growth is suspected, excess moisture has been present or when there are concerns regarding potential fungal growth.

1.5 Periodic fungal assessment in buildings may be a component of preventative maintenance programs.

1.6 This guide is applicable to buildings including residential (for example, single or multi-family), institutional (for example, schools, hospitals), government, public assembly, commercial (for example, office, retail), and industrial facilities.

1.7 Recommendations for developing a sampling strategy or methods for the collection and analysis of fungal samples are beyond the scope of this guide. For recommendations for developing a sampling strategy, see Ref (1)², Chapter 10.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D22 on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D22.08 on Sampling and Analysis of Mold.

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² The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of this standard.

1.8 Recommendations for remediation of fungal growth are beyond the scope of this guide.

1.9 This guide is not intended to supersede any government regulations governing the assessment of fungal growth in buildings.

1.10 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

- C755 Practice for Selection of Water Vapor Retarders for Thermal Insulation
- C1699 Test Method for Moisture Retention Curves of Porous Building Materials Using Pressure Plates
- D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids
- D4442 Test Methods for Direct Moisture Content Measurement of Wood and Wood-Base Materials
- E331 Test Method for Water Penetration of Exterior Windows, Skylights, Doors, and Curtain Walls by Uniform Static Air Pressure Difference
- E547 Test Method for Water Penetration of Exterior Windows, Skylights, Doors, and Curtain Walls by Cyclic Static Air Pressure Difference
- E631 Terminology of Building Constructions
- E1105 Test Method for Field Determination of Water Penetration of Installed Exterior Windows, Skylights, Doors, and Curtain Walls, by Uniform or Cyclic Static Air Pressure Difference
- E1186 Practices for Air Leakage Site Detection in Building Envelopes and Air Barrier Systems
- E1356 Test Method for Assignment of the Glass Transition Temperatures by Differential Scanning Calorimetry
- E2128 Guide for Evaluating Water Leakage of Building Walls

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.