



Fire, Water, Mold – Cleanup & Restoration™

of Hoboken/Union City

P.O. Box 393, Hoboken, NJ 07030

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer L. Harvey
(201) 656-0035

Jen@ServproHobokenUC.com

Got Mold? Local Hudson County SERVPRO Owner Offers Advice

Information to residents and business professionals during Mold Awareness Month

Hoboken, NJ, September 14, 2009 – One might think mold only affects "at risk" people, such as children, senior citizens, those who are immune-suppressed or those suffering from chronic inflammatory lung diseases like asthma and severe allergies. In recognition of Mold Awareness Month this September, however, one local cleanup and restoration professional is correcting that misconception and explaining how mold can really affect anyone who is exposed to it.

"It's true that those who suffer from health problems are more inclined to have harsher side effects when exposed to mold, but it's important to know that mold does not discriminate," said Lance L. Harvey, owner of SERVPRO of Hoboken/Union City. "People of all ages and health statuses are vulnerable to health problems associated with exposure to mold. These side effects can include something as minor as a runny nose, sneezing or coughing, to things more intense like aggravation of asthma, sore throat and inflammation of the sinuses."

Water intrusions may lead to the growth of mold, and many times that intrusion is the result of storm damage, plumbing or equipment failures, long-standing leaks and poor humidity control. "If water intrusions are not addressed right away, the resulting damage may present an increased risk of harmful mold growth. Excessive mold growth can lead to indoor environmental conditions that pose a health threat," said Harvey.

In observation of this month's awareness campaign, SERVPRO of Hoboken/Union City is offering helpful information about the fungus that often lies hidden in many homes and business buildings in the local community. The following advice can help people tackle mold in its early stages:

Understand Mold

"There are over 100,000 species of identified mold," Harvey said. "We are consistently exposed to thousands of different types of fungi in our everyday lives. Certain types of fungi exist naturally in soils, plants, fruits and textiles and are generally not harmful, but others that grow in water, moisture and high humidity in buildings are just the opposite."

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201-656-0035 - Tel

201-656-0037 - Fax

servpro9592@ServproHobokenUC.com

www.SERVPROofHobokenUnionCity.com

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Take Precaution

Mold is more likely to spread when an environment has been subject to moisture for a long period of time. If your property has sustained recent water damage, it is important to remove excess water and dry the structure promptly. If you notice an ongoing moisture problem, be on alert for the following signs:

- The presence of visible mold
- Strong, musty odors
- Evidence of past moisture issues that might have caused undetected mold growth
- Excessive humidity

Fight Mold

Periodically inspect your property. Look for water and moisture in and around your home. Pay special attention around pipes, in basements and crawl spaces, behind boxes and contents in dark areas of your property. Note: you may have to hire a professional, such as those at SERVPRO of Hoboken/Union City. Mold can live in unseen areas such as ceilings or wall cavities.

Control the humidity in bathrooms and wherever water is repeatedly used. Exhaust fans, proper caulking and effective cleaning with an appropriate cleaning product will help keep mold problems away. Regularly have your HVAC system and air conditioner inspected to identify moisture problems or drain clogs.

"By following these tips, you can help keep your insurance costs down and protect your property," Harvey said. "Do not procrastinate. The most important step you can take is to identify any humidity, moisture or water damage problems before they create bigger problems such as mold growth or structural damage. In many cases, the mold problem can be addressed without having to make an insurance claim."

Beyond taking actions on your own to prevent mold, it's important to know when it's time to call an indoor air quality professional who knows what he or she is doing. SERVPRO has been restoring properties since 1967. SERVPRO of Hoboken/Union City responds to mold problems around the clock and has equipment to professionally test for moisture, extract water completely and dry properties throughout Hudson County.

About SERVPRO of Hoboken/Union City

SERVPRO of Hoboken/Union City is a leading provider of fire, water, mold and other specialty cleanup and restoration services. Independently owned and operated by Jersey City residents, SERVPRO of Hoboken/Union City responds to property damage emergencies ranging from multi-million dollar disasters affecting entire communities to those suffered by individual businesses and homes. SERVPRO of Hoboken/Union City is an active member of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, Hoboken Chamber of Commerce, NJ Chapter of the Community Associations Institute (NJ-CAI), and the New Jersey Apartment Association (NJAA).

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