## "There Was Mold, but We Bleached It Out. Don't Worry!"

If you're considering buying a house, and the seller or builder says, "There was visible mold in the house, but we took care of the problem. We cleaned it up with bleach and painted over it," run, don't walk! This will not and does not work. More than likely, the mold will grow back through the paint in one to six months. The best remedy to properly correct this problem is to tear out all the contaminated drywall, remediate the areas, and replace the old drywall or other mold-contaminated materials with new ones.

Unlike man-made hazards like asbestos and lead, mold is a growing, living contaminant that, in excess quantities, can damage not only your health, but your home and its contents. Keeping mold in check means depriving it of the conditions it likes most—moisture and food (materials to grow on).

Whatever variety of mold you have, if it's visible or giving off a musty odor, it has to go. Mold cleanup or remediation must be complete, and the moisture source that caused the mold must be corrected.