



Question: Does Bleach kill mold?

Answer: Not 100%

Under certain conditions, bleach does kill “surface” mold, but it comes with a catch. Read any bleach label and it will warn you that chlorine bleach will only be effective on a “hard, non-porous surface.” Therefore, its disinfecting properties are limited to hard surfaces like tile or glass. The spores of mold spread like roots (Mycelia) deep into a porous surface. Mold remediation requires a cleaner to reach deep down into wood and other porous materials to remove or "pull out" the roots. The properties of bleach prevent it from soaking into these materials. The surface mold may look gone (because the surface of it was bleached white) but the internal mold always remains and will grow back.

Another issue is Bleach contains 90% water and mold LOVES water.



When a bleach solution is applied to a surface, the chlorine will quickly evaporate, leaving behind a lot of water. This water often seeps into the porous surface allowing the mold to flourish and re-grow in this new moist environment. So in effect, using bleach actually feeds the internal mold spores! So even though the surface may look antiseptic and bleached clean, the remaining spores will root deeper, stronger and will often return worse than before.



So before you clean...take the time to investigate actual mold cleaning solutions. There are products that are much more effective on mold than just using chlorine. These products are readily available at most hardware and big box home stores.

Tips from Falcon Home Inspections, LLC; www.falconhomeinspections.com