Tips for Preventing Mold

According to the EPA, there is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in an indoor environment. Molds can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any substance, provided moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, and foods. The way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture, which requires diligence living in south Florida; here is what you can do.

To reduce the potential of mold indoors, water problems or leaks should be reported, identified and corrected as soon as possible. These include dripping pipes, leaks, floods, rainwater coming in through windows, etc. Call 8-CARE.

Relative humidity indoors should be kept below 60%. In order to accomplish this all residential students should:

- Keep all wet clothing in a plastic bag or plastic covered bin to keep moisture contained. Your best bet is keep up on your laundry.
- Wet shoes/hats should be dried before they are put away.
- Do not attempt to control temperature by blocking the air supply or opening windows!
- Dry all personal belongings within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.

In addition, if you live in:

Mahoney/Pearson/Eaton:

- Keep the bathroom door closed at all times. The ventilation system in the bathroom is designed to take moisture out and keep it out of the bedrooms. Leaving the door open will allow moisture into the room.
- Keep thermostat set between 72-78 degrees and the fan at no higher than medium. It is optimal to keep the system running, but if it is too cold relative humidity will rise and condensation may form.
- Keep wet towels in the bathroom to allow the ventilation system to dry them and keep moisture from migrating into the bedroom.

For Apartment Area Residents:

- Keep the windows closed. Open windows allow moisture levels to rise, condensation to form and mold to grow in your apartment.
- Keep thermostat fan setting on “AUTO”
- Keep the air conditioning units running at all times on the recirculated air setting.
- Keep thermostat set between 72-78 degrees

If you observe mold present in your room it should be reported immediately by calling 8-CARE. For more in-depth information on mold visit [http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html](http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html). Thank you.