YOU CAN CONTROL THE GROWTH OF MOLD IN YOUR HOME

- Vacuum and clean your home regularly to remove mold spores.
- Check around your windows for signs of condensation and water droplets. Wipe up water right away.
- Wash with a mild detergent solution, such as laundry detergent, and warm water and allow to dry.
- Open windows and doors to increase air flow in your home, especially along the inside of exterior walls. Use a fan if there are no windows available.
- Move large objects a few inches away from the inside of exterior walls to increase air circulation.
- Install and use exhaust fans in bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms.
- Stop water leaks, repair leaky roofs and plumbing. Keep water away from concrete slabs and basement walls.
- Ventilate and insulate attic and crawl spaces. Use heavy plastic to cover earth floors in crawl spaces.
- Clean and dry water damaged carpets, clothing, bedding, and upholstered furniture within 24 to 48 hours, or consider removing and replacing damaged furnishings.

OUR VISION
All Kittitas County residents have the freedom and ability to pursue healthy lives in a healthy environment.

RESOURCES:
Mold in Your Home Video by Northwest Clean Air Agency:
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDiKRj5i0PU

CDC Mold Guide:
- www.cdc.gov/mold/

EPA Mold Guide:
- www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html

WA State DOH Mold Guide:
- http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/HealthyHome/Contaminants/Mold.aspx

Is there mold in your home?
WHAT IS MOLD?
Mold enters your home as tiny spores. The spores need moisture to begin growing. Molds can grow on almost any surface, such as wood, ceiling tiles, wallpaper, paints, carpet, sheet rock, and insulation. Mold grows best when there is lots of moisture from a leaky roof, high humidity, or flood. There is no way to get rid of all molds and mold spores from your home. But you can control mold growth by keeping your home dry.

You know you have mold when you smell the "musty" odor or see small black or white specks along your damp bathroom or basement walls. Some mold is hidden, growing behind wall coverings or ceiling tiles. Even dry, dead mold can cause health problems, so always take precautions when you suspect mold.

DO MOLDS AFFECT MY HEALTH?
Most molds do not harm healthy people. People who have allergies or asthma may be more sensitive to molds. Sensitive people may experience skin rash, running nose, eye irritation, cough, nasal congestion, aggravation of asthma or difficulty breathing. People with an immune suppression or underlying lung disease, may be at increased risk for infections from molds.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?
A small number of molds produce toxins called mycotoxins. When people are exposed to high levels of mold mycotoxins they may suffer toxic effects, including fatigue, nausea, headaches, and irritation to the lungs and eyes. If you or your family members have health problems that you suspect are caused by exposure to mold, you should consult with your physician.

RENTERS/LANDLORDS
If you rent your home, you are covered by the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act. If you own your home and suspect mold, it is recommended to call a lab for testing.

Renters need to notify landlords promptly, in writing, of any water leaks or moisture problems.

Mold problems in buildings are a result of water and moisture problems.

If there is a water leak or moisture problem, it should be fixed by the landlord.

Landlords are responsible for maintaining rental units, including fixing building problems such as water leaks and ventilation or heating defects which may lead to moisture problems.

Understanding your rights and responsibilities as a renter can help you resolve problems.

For more information check out:
Residential Landlord Tenant Act RCW:

Mold Guidance for Tenants and Landlords: