Green Home SOLUTIONS

Why You Shouldn't Use Chlorine Bleach to Kill Mold

Chlorine Bleach is Ineffective at Killing Mold for These Reasons:

1. Chlorine Bleach has not been proven effective in killing molds on non-porous surfaces. Chlorine Bleach doesn't actually destroy the mold, it removes its color, giving the impression that the mold is gone.

2. Chlorine Bleach is 99% water. Water is one of the main contributors to the growth of harmful bacteria and mold. Treatments using bleach re-grew and regenerated mold and bacteria at twice the CFU (cubic foot/unit) counts than were originally found before bleaching.

3. Chlorine Bleach effectiveness diminishes quickly. Chlorine constantly escapes through the plastic walls of its container as it sits in warehouses, on grocery store shelves, or inside your home or business. Up to 50% of bleach's power is lost in its first 90 days.

4. Chlorine Bleach accelerates the deterioration of materials. Chlorine wears down and destroys the fibers of porous materials, shortening their life.

5. Chlorine Bleach gives off harmful gases for a period of time. Chlorine gas is toxic to humans and animals. It is a pulmonary irritant that does acute damage to the upper and lower respiratory tract.

6. Chlorine Bleach is NOT registered with the EPA as a disinfectant to kill mold. You can verify this important fact for yourself by looking at the product label. You will be unable to find an EPA registration number for killing mold on any brand.

7. The ionic structure of bleach prevents Chlorine from penetrating into porous materials. That means that Chlorine will sit on the surface of drywall and wood, however the water will soak into the surface and feed the roots of mold. This is why a few days later a darker more concentrated area of mold will appear on the previously bleached area.

8. Chlorine Bleach will evaporate within a short period of time. If the area is not dry when bleach evaporates, or moisture is present due to humidity, you will re-start the contamination process immediately, and often times, to a greater degree.

9. Chlorine is a key component of DIOXIN. One of the earliest findings of dioxin's toxicity in animals was that it caused birth defects in mice at very low levels. This finding led to dioxin being characterized as "one of the most teratogenic environmental agents."

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