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The Air Quality Consultants

The Air Quality Reporter

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The Beat Goes On.....

A Virginia family has been awarded \$4.75 million dollars in damages following a that toxic mold in their home caused neurotoxicity that led to severe headaches and dizziness. The construction firm that built the home was found liable for

In another legal ruling, Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies Inc. has announced it will provide refunds and replacement decking as part of a \$13 million settlement of a class action lawsuit over mold and mildew staining problems with its ChoiceDek products. The settlement was approved January 9th in a federal district court in Washington State. Customers had complained that ChoiceDek products were prone to developing mold and mildew, and that they had trouble restoring the decking to its original appearance.

A quick "Google" search of "Toxic Mold Litigation" indicated a total of **968,000** potential sites. This is astounding. With the economy the way it is even the legal profession is looking at ways to increase revenue. It is up to you as a building owner, manager or as a remediation contractor to protect yourself. Your absolute #1 defense against litigation is thorough, complete, accurate documentation.

Mold of the Month...Trichoderma

This ubiquitous mold has approximately 20 species. It is found in northern alpine regions and all the way into southern tropical areas. It is a very thermo-tolerant fungi. It is commonly found in decaying wood, grains, fruit, tomatoes, paper and textiles. It is commonly found indoors on paper, tapestry, wood, in kitchens on the outer surfaces of unglazed ceramics and other substrates. Trichoderma is classified as an Allergen affecting Type I allergies such as hay fever and asthma. It is also classified as a Type III hypersensitivity pneumonitis allergen.

Human infections include a pulmonary cavity, peritonitis in a dialysis patient, and a perihepatic infection in a liver transplant patient. It is considered an emerging opportunist in immunocompromised persons. It is believed to cause a mycotoxicosis similar to that caused by *Stachybotrys chartarum*. Some of the metabolic substances produced are closely related to trichothecenes. It is basically a wet spore and Trichoderma forms sticky clumps of conidia when cultured. One particular species has an odor of coconut.



ALERT

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has ordered that hospitals no longer be reimbursed for infections acquired in the course of a patient's hospitalization.