

# GOT MOLD? IT'S NOT YOUR WATER

## Is there a slimy black substance on your fixtures and/or drains? It's not the water.

Have you noticed a black, slimy substance collecting in and around your water faucets, sink and shower? It is a common misconception that these stains and residues are caused by the water in your system. This growth is actually from naturally occurring airborne spores. These common household molds and mildews thrive in moist and damp environments, which is why they're often found in these areas.

## But what can you do?

Biological growth on household fixtures can be controlled with a routine of cleaning and maintenance. **Below are some methods to stay ahead of mold:**



Clean affected areas with **bleach solution**.



**Eliminate leaks** that provide a constant source of water.



Make sure susceptible areas are **dry after use**.



Maintain **adequate ventilation**.



**Repair leaking** pipes or fixtures promptly.



**Clean away lime scale** (or hardness scale or soap scum) on vulnerable surfaces.



**Clean aerators or replace aerators** that are old or tarnished. (See instructions below).



Not comfortable using bleach? **Try white vinegar instead**. Spray, soak and wipe.



Pour white vinegar down **drains**.



Research purchasing **anti-microbial sink fixtures, appliances, and shower curtains**.



**Review owner's manuals** for proper maintenance, flushing or cleaning of appliances.



**Mold grows on containers and scrub brushes** left in the shower — store them in the closet when not being used.



**Clean and dry areas** completely after spills or flooding.



**Ventilate** shower, laundry, and cooking areas.



### CLEANING YOUR FAUCET'S AERATOR

If mold is observed on faucets it may be growing in the aerator that is attached to the end of the faucet. Clean regularly by unscrewing the aerator from the faucet and cleaning the parts with a mild bleach solution.

### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Connecticut Water **routinely tests your water** to ensure that it meets all state and federal requirements.
- The molds, mildews and fungi on your fixtures in the bathroom and kitchen are **not an indicator of the quality of the water** in your distribution system. It is caused by airborne organisms that occur naturally in the environment.
- **These organisms can attach** to clothing, shoes, bags, pets, luggage, construction materials, or anything you carry into your home. It can also enter your home via vents, heating and air-conditioning systems, doorways and windows.
- **Molds and mildews are living organisms** and can grow on almost any surface that provides nutrients and dampness.

Call us at 1-800-286-5700 with any questions.

**ConnecticutWater**