

Let's talk MOULD

Mould in our home is a concern particularly coming into the cooler months where the additional moisture in the air creates a playground for mould.

HEALTH RISKS

Once the mould has become established in our home – and if it is not identified and eliminated soon – it can cause long-lasting damage to health, such as:

- Allergies
- Respiratory diseases, including asthma
- Rashes
- Sleep disorders

In the worst-case even pollution in the form of carcinogenic substances that form in some types of mould.

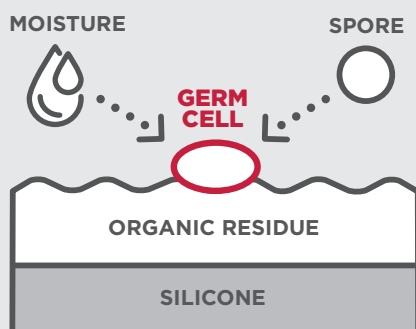
CAUSES

There are many causes of mould forming in your home, especially in hard to reach places:

- High air humidity with little air movement
- Warmth
- Nutrients in the form of organic deposits. E.g. residues from body care materials such as soap, shower gel etc.

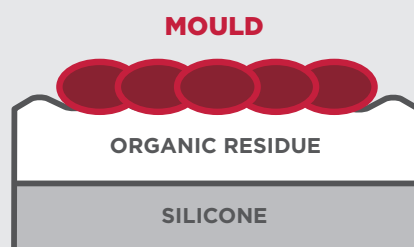
MOULD IN SILICONE SEALANTS

Bathrooms and wet areas are often the perfect environments for mould to grow. Elastic silicone joints that are used throughout wet areas, have low thermal conductivity and are the warmest part of a tiled surface. These properties in combination with organic residues and moisture, allow mould to thrive.



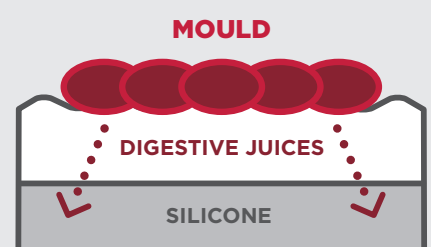
Initial Contact

Mould fungus spreads through spores. When they first land on a silicone joint in the right environment, the spores initially absorb water and enlarge by swelling in volume.



Primary Attack

A network of thread-like filaments (mycelium) can grow out of the spore and thrive under favourable conditions into colonies of mould. If mould is only growing on the organic residue on the silicone sealant surface, it is called a primary attack.



Secondary Attack

The mould fungi secrete a type of digestive juice which is able to break the sealant down into decomposition products for the mould. If this occurs, the mould can grow into the sealant (a secondary attack), which results in the unattractive spots on the silicone joint.

PREVENTION - CHOOSE THE RIGHT SILICONE

Maxisil is a premium silicone product containing fungicidal (mould resistant) properties in all its silicone sealant products. By using a fungicidal formulation, provides a high level of defence against mould attack.

To ensure the sealants are physiologically safe, Maxisil only uses fungicides that do not contain toxic heavy metal compounds or other substances.

The anti-fungal effect cannot be guaranteed permanently since the protective agents are sacrificial and become less active over time by the mould/fungi.

Maxisil silicone sealant products can be applied to wet and dry areas, inside and outside your home and used on ceramic, tiles, grout and natural stone surfaces. Maxisil can be used in:

- Bathrooms and wet areas
- Natural stone
- Pools and fountains
- Waterproofing



MAINTENANCE - VENTILATION & CLEANING

The best means of prevention against mould on sealants is good ventilation and regular cleaning and disinfection of the elastic joints.

Nothing can be done about the spores occurring naturally everywhere in the air. However, the colonisation and multiplication of micro-organisms on the sealant can be prevented if the rooms are well ventilated and the elastic joints are properly looked after.

In addition to regular cleaning, the elastic joints should be treated at intervals (e.g. weekly) with commercial disinfectant. For cleaning, preferably neutral or alkaline cleaning agents should be used, since mould spreads more vigorously under acidic conditions.





TREATMENT - PRIMARY ATTACK

If a mould attack occurs, as long as it is just limited to the surface (primary attack), it should be treated with an anti-mould spray.



RDX2004
MAXISIL CLEANER

TREATMENT - SECONDARY ATTACK

If the mould has already entered into the sealant (secondary attack), the sealant must be removed completely.

Before replacing the sealant, the affected joint areas should be treated with anti-fungal spray in order to remove any fungus spores. Otherwise, if any spores are still present around the joints, fungal attack may rapidly reoccur in spite of the new sealant having fungicidal properties.



RDX2000
MAXISIL
SMOOTHTEX A

To reduce the chance of mould follow the Maxisil system.

1

MAXISIL CLEANER

Clean joint before applying silicone



2

MAXISIL SILICONE

Apply Maxisil silicone



3

SMOOTHTEX & APPLICATOR

Brush on Smoothtex and use applicator for smooth finish



For more information visit maxisil.com

TIPS/TRICKS

✗ Never use your saliva to smooth out silicone, this induces mould on the silicone surface

✗ Never use household detergent as smoothing agents, as they may lead to mould infestation or discolouring of the silicone

✓ Only use a matched smoothing agent to the silicone, eg. Maxisil Smoothtex

For more information on mould and to see the full range of Maxisil products visit maxisil.com