

Got mold?

Note: Information provided by the Community Alliance of Tenants is for general educational use only. It is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney.

Note: Information provided by the Community Alliance of Tenants is for general educational use only and is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney.

In Oregon's wet climate, mold can be a big problem for many people. If there's mold in your apartment, here are some things to think about:

- Mold happens when there's lots of moisture and/or air that can't circulate. So anything you can do to keep things dry and keep air moving will help keep mold from growing. Running bathroom and kitchen fans when you're using those rooms is one thing that helps.
- If mold does form, you can try washing the areas with a bleach solution and trying to get some air to the areas
- Follow all the steps to getting repairs done as outlined in our repairs handout.
- For more information about taking care of mold and other indoor air quality concerns, call Margaret at the American Lung Association at 503-924-4094.

Does my landlord have to clean up the mold in my apartment?

According to ORS 90.320, the landlord must keep your place and the common areas in good repair. This means that the unit must not substantially lack (among other things) effective waterproofing and weather protection and good ventilation. So your landlord should be responsible for taking care of the more common situations that create mold.

Some landlords have asked tenants to sign mold and mildew addendums that require a tenant to do various things to help keep mold from growing, and says that a landlord is not responsible for any mold that does grow. It's not clear if these addendums are legal or not- the landlord might be trying to get out of their obligations, but it hasn't been through court, so only a judge could say for certain. If your landlord gives you one of these addendums and you want to refuse to sign it, you should be sure to talk with an attorney who agrees to represent you in eviction court before you refuse.