



## What to Look For in a Mold Investigator

- 1) **Credentials.** The investigator should have a certification awarded from the American Indoor Air Quality Council – designations include CIE and CIEC. One of these additional certifications is also recommended for a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) as mold assessment is not usually part of CIH training. Further, it is strongly recommended that the individual is well-read and has some additional training in the area of microbiology and data interpretation.
- 2) **Experience.** The mold inspector should have a diverse background and experience with building construction, moisture control and ventilation. No certificate can substitute for real-world experience in and under houses.
- 3) **Integrity.** Integrity is essential when it comes to interpreting visual clues during an inspection and providing accurate data and analysis to the client. Integrity also means doing all the necessary tests so that the inspection will stand up in court should it ever need to do so.
- 4) **Communication Skills.** Unfortunately, many lab technicians become mold inspectors to get out from behind the microscope for a few hours a day. These people may understand microbiology but may not understand people and the dynamics involved with buying or selling a home. Look for a mold inspector who understands the science and can explain it to the average person without making them feel inadequate.
- 5) **Independence.** To avoid a conflict of interest, it's recommended that the environmental testing or consulting firm not also serve as the remediation contractor. The firm doing the testing should also be using an independent, accredited microbiological laboratory holding AIHA and/or EMLAP certification.
- 6) **Calibrated Equipment.** One of the first things an investigator will be asked in court is “how often is your equipment calibrated?” The use of calibrated equipment is vital in assuring that the monitoring data collected is as accurate as possible.

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