

MOLD

Mold simply cannot be avoided here in Okinawa, due to its warm, humid climate. However, there are steps that occupants and residents can take to reduce or limit mold growth:

ROOM TEMPERATURE

Set your thermostat between 76°F and 80°F in the summer or between 65°F and 74° in the winter.

Do not leave doors or windows open while the A/C is on.



BATHROOM

Use the bathroom fan when bathing or showering and keep the fan on until excess moisture has been vented (about 20 minutes), then turn it off. Running the fan constantly shortens its life and increases the chance for seizing and fires.

LAUNDRY ROOM

Clean the lint filter in your dryer after each use and promptly report any damage to the vent connection. Dry damp clothing as quickly as possible.



HOUSE PLANTS

Avoid overwatering houseplants which can contribute to excess humidity in your home.

CLEAN UP

Clean, dust, vacuum and mop your quarters on a regular basis. Household dirt and debris can contribute to mold growth.



CLOSETS

Do not overfill closets or storage areas. Overcrowding restricts airflow. If condensation forms wipe it daily. Do not store items in mechanical rooms.



DEHUMIDIFIERS

Can be purchased at your local exchange or on the economy. Ensure that the capacity of the unit can handle the size of the room – and empty them regularly!



MOLD RESPONSE

In addition to regular cleaning, if you see surface mold:

- For non-porous surfaces such as countertops, use warm soapy water or a mixture of water and bleach at a ratio of 1 cup bleach per gallon of water.
- For porous surfaces such as couch cushions, use one of the following: 3% hydrogen peroxide, vinegar or baking soda and water.

For emergency mold issues in quarters or barracks, contact your housing office or barracks manager for assistance.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Installation personnel requiring upkeep and/or maintenance of their facilities should contact the **Directorate of Public Works, Business Operations & Integration Division** at 644-4255, before doing **ANY** work or self-help projects.

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KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT USAG OKINAWA



Okinawa is a wonderful place to live and work, and here at U.S. Army Garrison Okinawa we want to do everything in our power to make this **your Army Home**.

Part of that effort is educating you about the reality of life here. We are doing a lot and you can pitch in and do a lot yourself—the best way to do that is to know what to look for and how to fix it!

ASBESTOS

Asbestos was used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire retardant for decades, and was phased out of construction materials in 1989. However older buildings, like some here on Torii Station, still contain asbestos insulation and fireproofing.



NOTICE

Exposure to AIRBORNE asbestos fibers increases your risk of developing lung disease. Smoking makes that risk much worse. Good news, though: **Asbestos does not** become airborne unless it is broken or otherwise disturbed. For this reason, **unit self-help initiatives are prohibited, before contacting DPW.**

The Installation samples and maintains an inventory of asbestos-containing materials throughout its facilities so that renovation and remodeling projects do not impact construction workers, occupants or residents.



LEAD

To ensure the quality of drinking water on USAG Okinawa, the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division conducts a monthly analysis. Initial lead sampling of USAG-Okinawa drinking water was conducted in the late 80s. DPW removed or replaced older piping and faucets, the most likely sources for lead, in all locations which exceeded Safe Drinking Water Act allowable limits. Since then, the Environmental Division continues to test for lead once every three years.



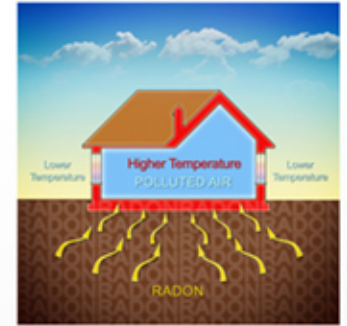
Exposure to lead can also occur through the inhalation of lead based paint (LBP). If a building was built prior to 1978, there is a high probability it was constructed with LBP.

The Installation also samples and maintains an inventory of locations with LBP throughout its facilities, so that renovation or remodeling projects do not impact construction workers, occupants or residents.



RADON

Radon is an odorless, colorless, naturally - occurring radioactive gas. Outdoors, radon disperses rapidly and, generally, is not a health issue. Most radon exposure occurs inside homes, schools and workplaces when the gas becomes trapped after it enters buildings through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Indoor radon can be controlled and managed with proven, cost - effective techniques.



Breathing radon over time increases your risk of lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths, and smoking greatly increases the chance of radon-related cancer. Radon exists in buildings world-wide, including here on Torii Station, however, the Directorate of Public Works has installed radon mitigation systems to ventilate those facilities where concentrations exceeded the Occupational Safety & Health Administrations regulatory standards for work place occupancy. No radon levels in living quarters on the installation were found to exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended exposure levels.

USAGO COMMITMENT



The Directorate of Public Works continues its efforts to reduce or eliminate workplace and resident exposures to radon by means of sampling and mitigation, and you can do your part by cleaning regularly, as radon can attach itself to dust.