



Aspergillus fumigatus causes invasive infection in the lung and represents a major cause of morbidity and mortality in these individuals. Aflatoxins (a type of mycotoxin) are toxic and among the most **carcinogenic** substances known.

What is sick building syndrome?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the term "sick building syndrome" (SBS) is used to describe situations in which building occupants experience acute health and comfort effects that appear to be linked to time spent in a building, but no specific illness or cause can be identified. The complaints may be localized in a particular room or zone, or may be widespread throughout the building.

The American Medical Association (AMA) states 94% of all respiratory ailments are caused by polluted air, and reported that one-third of our national health bill is for causes directly attributable to indoor air pollution.

Don't Guess, Let Us Test!

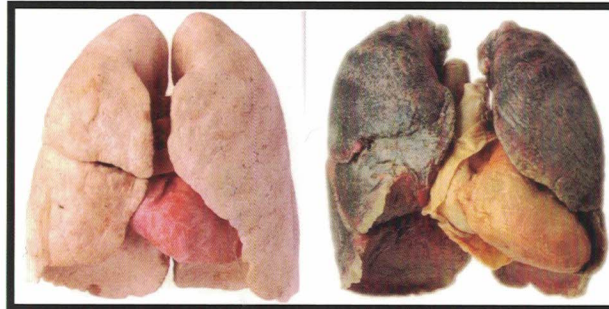


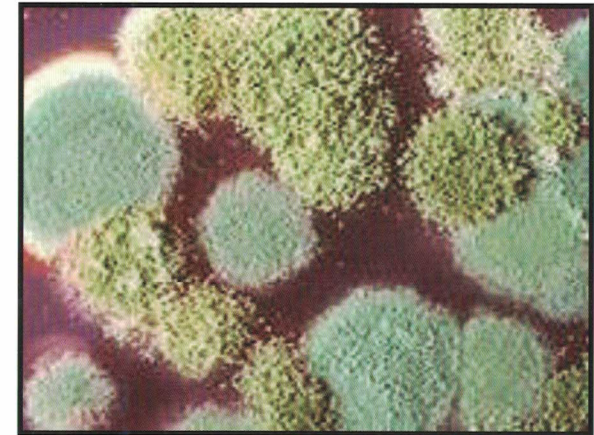
Photo of healthy lungs (left) and unhealthy lungs ((right).

What are the causes of "sick building syndrome" (SBS)?

There are many factors that affect "sick building syndrome" (SBS). Sick building syndrome can be a result of Biological (e.g., Mold and Fungus), Chemical (e.g., Formaldehyde) or Environmental (e.g., Carbon Monoxide) contaminants.

Biological contaminants are living organisms; mold, bacteria, fungi, and mammal and bird antigens that can be inhaled. Stagnant water and moisture are breeding grounds for mold and bacteria. Moisture can accumulate in ducts, humidifiers, drain pans and crawl spaces. Insects or droppings left behind by birds or rodents are sources of biological contaminants too. These contaminants can enter the building through crawl spaces. Mold is a serious concern. Health problems associated with the inhalation of airborne mold spores include allergic reactions, asthma episodes, irritations of the eye, nose and throat, sinus congestion, and other respiratory problems.

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The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contends that the lung is the most common site of injury by airborne pollutants. There can be lingering effects of various mold-induced neurotoxicity. **Here are some side effects of toxicity:**

Immediate effects

- headaches
- dizziness
- runny noses
- itchy, watery eyes
- scratchy throats
- nausea
- fatigue
- inability to concentrate
- respiratory infections

Long-term effects

- Severe lung disease
- heart disease
- cancer
- neurological diseases
- sudden illness/death

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