

# MOLD INFORMATION AND PREVENTION ADDENDUM

1. ADDENDUM: This is an Addendum to the LEASE CONTRACT executed by you, the tenant(s), on the dwelling you have agreed to rent. That dwelling is located at \_\_\_\_\_ Charlottesville VA, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ABOUT MOLD: Mold is found virtually everywhere in our environment – both indoors and outdoors and in both new and old structures. Molds are naturally occurring microscopic organisms that reproduce by spores and have existed practically from the beginning of time. All of us have lived with mold spores all our lives. Without molds we would all be struggling with large amounts of dead organic matter. Mold breaks down organic matter in the environment and uses the end product for its food. Mold spores (like plant pollen) spread through the air and are commonly transported by shoes, clothing and other materials. When excess moisture is present inside a dwelling, mold can grow. There is conflicting scientific evidence as to what constitutes a sufficient accumulation of mold which could lead to adverse health effects. Nonetheless, appropriate precautions need to be taken.
3. PREVENTING MOLD BEGINS WITH YOU: In order to minimize the potential for mold growth in your dwelling, you must do the following:
  - *KEEP YOUR DWELLING CLEAN*: particularly the kitchen, the bathroom(s), carpets and floors. Regular vacuuming, mopping, and using a household cleaner to clean hard surfaces is important to remove the household dirt and debris that harbor mold or food for mold. Immediately throw away moldy foods.
  - *REMOVE VISIBLE MOISTURE ACCUMULATION ON WINDOWS, WALLS CEILINGS, FLOORS AND OTHER SURFACES AS SOON AS REASONABLY POSSIBLE*: Look for leaks in washing machine hoses and discharge lines – especially if the leak is large enough for water to infiltrate into nearby walls. When showering, be sure to keep the shower curtain inside the tub or fully close the shower doors. Also, the experts recommend that after taking a shower or bath, you (1) wipe moisture off of shower walls, shower doors, the bathtub and the bathroom floor, (2) leave the bathroom door open until all moisture on the mirrors and bathroom walls and tile surfaces has dissipated, and (3) hang up your towels and bath mats so they will completely dry out. Turn on any exhaust fans in the bathroom and kitchen before you start showering or cooking with open pots.
  - *PROMPTLY NOTIFY US IN WRITING ABOUT ANY AIR CONDITION OR HEATING SYSTEM PROBLEMS YOU DISCOVER*: Follow our rules regarding replacement of air filters. Also, it is recommended that you periodically open windows and doors on days when the outdoor weather is dry (i.e., humidity is below 50 percent) to help humid areas of your dwelling dry out.
  - *PROMPTLY NOTIFY US IN WRITING ABOUT ANY SIGNS OF WATER LEAKS, WATER INFILTRATION OR MOLD*: We will respond in accordance with state law and the LEASE CONTRACT to repair or remedy the situation as necessary.
4. TO AVOID MOLD GROWTH: It is important to prevent excessive moisture buildup in your dwelling. Failure to promptly pay attention to leaks and moisture that might accumulate on dwelling surfaces or that might get inside walls or ceilings can encourage mold growth. Prolonged moisture can result from a wide variety of sources, such as the following:
  - Rainwater leaking from roofs, windows, doors and outside walls, as well as flood waters rising above floor level;
  - Overflows from showers, bathtubs, toilets, lavatories, sinks, washing machines, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, or A/C drip pans or clogged up A/C condensation lines;
  - Leaks from plumbing lines or fixtures and leaks into walls from bad or missing grouting/caulking around showers, tubs or sinks;
  - Washing machine hose leaks, plant watering overflows, pet urine, cooking spills, beverage spills, and steam from excessive pot cooking;

