



Archives and Records Management Conservation Sheet No. 3/2010

Vinegar is a natural, inexpensive and green ingredient for removing mould

There are two kinds of products that can be used to get rid of moulds. They are the chemically-based ones and naturally-produced ones. The former is made of hazardous ingredients while the latter is composed of organic elements. There is proven evidence that naturally-produced removers are a much better and safer choice.

A natural mould remover has clear advantages over other mould cleaning agents as the benefits it brings favour humans and the environment as well. Vinegar is one of the most effective natural basic home ingredients, which work well for efficient and inexpensive mould cleaning.

In extreme instances where the use of strong chemical based mould removal products is necessary, employing a professional is advisable.

If the infestation covers about 10 ft. sq. it could be easily handled and the item or the surface could be saved. In this instance, the best mould removal product to have it restored is vinegar. Why? The reasons can be summed up in three words. It is cheap, effective and green.

When using vinegar the procedure for mould removal is as follows:

· **Step 1** – Protect your hands – Vinegar is a green product and its use will not bring any toxic effect. However, it is an acid that can irritate the skin. Wear latex gloves to prevent hand irritation before you start the process.

· **Step 2** – Scrub the infested surface – You will need detergent, water and a brush. Before you start scrubbing, dampen the surface to prevent mould spores from being released into the air and carried to the rest of the house. Scrubbing will remove most of the molds and prepare the surface for total removal with vinegar.

· **Step 3** – Apply the vinegar – Use a spray bottle to make it easier to apply. Then, spray on the infested surface and scrub it with the brush. Repeat the process if necessary.

Vinegar can initiate an effective and safe mould removal process. It is inexpensive, harmless to health while preserving the environment.