



UNC Cold Room Mold Prevention Checklist

Mold is a common occurrence in cold rooms. The surfaces in a cold room can quickly become contaminated with mold if there is improper moisture control due to high humidity, poor ventilation, or insulation failure, and when wood, cardboard, and other porous materials that promote mold growth are stored in the room. Mold contamination can result in the loss of the use of the cold room and loss of research samples. Decontamination by an outside company can be very costly and preventative measures should be in place to prevent contamination from reaching that point. This checklist outlines the responsibilities of laboratory departments to prevent mold growth in cold rooms.

Department Responsibilities

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Each laboratory will be responsible for ensuring that items stored within designated cold rooms are not harboring mold. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cold room users are responsible for keeping surfaces clean. Clean cold room at least monthly. Clean more often if necessary. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Small areas of mold can be cleaned by users. To clean small areas, wear disposable gloves and safety glasses. Use warm soapy water to wipe down areas. Dispose of clean-up materials as regular waste. Contact Facilities Services for assistance with large areas of mold which may require hiring an outside company. | <input type="checkbox"/> | DO NOT store porous or absorptive materials such as: cardboard, Styrofoam, and paper products in cold rooms. Metal or plastic containers are allowed. Note: Porous materials with mold growth cannot be properly cleaned and must be discarded. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Document cleanings/inspections using a log sheet. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Promptly clean up spilled liquid (e.g., buffers, media). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | DO NOT store items on the floor. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dispose of trash (paper towels, tubes, etc.) outside of cold room. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regularly inspect cold rooms for maintenance issues. Promptly report water leaks, ice buildup, frost, excessive condensation, etc. to Facilities Services ASAP. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep door firmly shut to prevent condensation. |

Examples of small areas of mold growth in cold rooms.

