



More Than Mold: Specialty Sampling 101



Mold Inspection Sciences Texas offers a variety of testing services other than those focused on mold. We might start with a mold and moisture investigation, but we don't necessarily stop there. If mold isn't identified as the issue, we can continue our investigation until we find the data and results that tell us what's going. In this episode, we're digging into the other types of testing and sampling we utilize to help our clients find the right next steps and solutions.

When Is Water Sampling Usually Completed for Clients?

- Real estate transactions – when purchasing a home.
- It's very important if a property uses well water because of hazards that may have leached into surrounding soils.
 - In some locations around the U.S., testing is required for properties using well water.
- Properties using city water may also benefit from water testing, especially if the property is older – plumbing could contain lead, iron, and manganese.
- Water testing reveals water quality, including pH, turbidity (water clarity), E.coli, and other contaminants.
- Heavy metals are critical to test for. Their presence can result in the deposit of small amounts of minerals and irons into the bloodstream.
 - Lead can trick the body into thinking that it is healthy calcium and result in deposits in bone material.
- If your home has older copper pipes, lead may still be a concern.

Mold Inspection Sciences Texas Also Offers Allergen Testing.

- While symptoms related to mold sensitivity are what we typically find, there are a variety of other allergens within living and working environments that may cause health issues too.
- Dust Mites are the most common allergy and asthma trigger in U.S. households.
- We most commonly rely on the Multiplex Array for Indoor Allergens (MARIA) analysis.
 - Tests for things like dust mites, pet dander, and cockroaches.
 - **Note:** If you haven't changed your pillows recently, you might want to.
 - 2021 Update: Up to 10% of a two-year-old pillow can be composed of dead mites and their droppings.



When Is Bacteria Sampling Used?

- This is a common form of sampling typically related to sewage losses (also known as black water loss).
- It is used to determine if bacteria are present and what types if so.
- E.coli and total coliforms are the two primary bacteria we test for. MISTX can also test for a broader spectrum of bacteria if conditions indicate they may be present.

"This is one of the most professional companies I have ever worked with. Everything that they do is done right and explained fully."

- Cat Harrington
GOOGLE 5-STAR REVIEW



THE SECRET LIFE OF MOLD **PODCAST**

When Is Bacteria Sampling Used?

- Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral whose heat resistance sparked its use in consumer products like shingles and insulation.
 - It is still used today in things like automotive brake pads.
- Asbestos can be linked as the cause of mesothelioma and other cancers.
- Different types of asbestos – friable and non-friable. Friable is considered more dangerous because it can be easily crumbled and inhaled.
- It's not extremely dangerous unless it's disturbed. If you're doing any type of construction or demolition, especially in older buildings, you want to have asbestos testing done.
- It was banned from many products in 1989 and is currently highly regulated in the U.S.
- DO NOT try and test for asbestos yourself!
- **Note:** Mold Inspection Sciences Texas offers third-party testing and is entirely independent of all mitigation or removal regarding all environmental investigations, effectively avoiding any conflict of interest.



Safe Water Plans for Schools

- Is the water in your school district safe? 10,000 schools in Texas alone have been identified with lead pipes connected to municipal drinking water systems.
- Children who consume contaminated water may absorb lead directly into their bones because their bones are more porous and still growing.
- Ask your schools if they have a safe water plan in place.

Is There a Safe Level of Lead in Water?

- According to the EPA standard, the safe amount is .015 micrograms per liter; however, it should be zero in our opinion.

If My City's Annual Water Report is Clean, Is My Home Safe?

- In short, no. While cities are required to test their reservoirs or holding tanks and provide that data to the public, their report does not necessarily mean the same for your home. Many factors separate your home's pipes from your city's, meaning it's important to get your own testing done at the tap.



At **Mold Inspection Sciences Texas**, our goal is to meet your needs as swiftly as possible while working to discover what's going on in your property. If you have questions or concerns about the testing or inspection process, please don't hesitate to contact us. **We're here to help protect you, those around you, and your investment in your property. Contact Us Today! 888.335.MOLD (6653) | CSR@MoldInspectionTexas.com**