



Take control and mitigate mould growth in your home

Damp, dark areas of the home, such as an unfinished basement, can often be trouble spots for homeowners hoping to increase their living space. Left unfinished, these areas of the home can potentially suffer significant damage, be prone to flooding or develop mold. When it comes to home improvement, homeowners are wise to consider the effects of moisture and mould build up and how they can be combated.

Mould growth, usually a result of excess moisture, also can be detrimental to one's health. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says that mould can survive in almost any conditions, and can cause visual, respiratory and even skin problems. Mould growth can also contribute to poor indoor air quality.

Canadian homeowners looking to turn an unfinished basement into a liveable space or take control of mould growth can help protect their home from unexpected expenses later on, and also add value to their home. There are several techniques to control moisture penetrating their home. Homeowners can consider techniques that manage water outside the foundation walls, ensure that the home is properly ventilated with exhaust fans in at least each bathroom and the kitchen, and size the home's air-conditioning unit correctly. Homeowners can also consider various construction techniques that can help control water, air movement, vapour diffusion as well as condensation.

More often than not, mould is found in homes that do not have adequate insulation. As moisture builds up within walls, the interior of the walls can start to slowly rot. This rot can emit a foul smell and eventually reduce the stability and quality of the home. Homeowners who want to address moisture and mould growth should consider a complete solution that halts future opportunities for mould growth and prevents potential costly repairs in the future.

Using a modern insulation material such as spray foam insulation, like that available from [icynene](http://www.icynene.com), is one solution that can assist. As a vapour-permeable material, spray foam insulation allows moisture to travel through it, enabling it to dry completely. Additionally, spray foam insulation is not considered a food source for mould, thereby quashing the probability of further mould growth. Properly insulated wall cavities and crawl spaces control moisture, minimize air leakage, save on heating and cooling bills as well as improve occupant comfort.

Getting to the root of mould issues is critical for any homeowner looking to add investment value to their home. A material like spray foam insulation can be applied within seconds to the walls, ceiling and floors of a basement to plug any cracks or gaps to deliver immediate results. More information on how spray foam insulation can help control moisture and mould growth can be found online at www.icynene.com.