

Conclusions

Friday, August 31

8:15 – 8:40 a.m.

Two Consultant's view of tomorrow (Feeley & Morey, 1990, ASTM STP, 1071); written in 1987; this is what I said in 1987

- People will become more susceptible to microbial agents
- As a consequence of rising energy costs, less outdoor air will be used to ventilate building; more moisture will accumulate in buildings.

Two Consultants' Views of Tomorrow (#2)

- Better and alternative ways will be found to control microbial amplification in porous insulation, drain pans, and humidifiers
- Research on baseline bioaerosol exposures will accelerate
- The commissioning of buildings in the future will involve bioaerosol considerations

Overall Remarks: Lessons Learned; The Future

- Physical inspection trumps sampling in problem buildings
- Every building is different; “It Depends”; so every investigation strategy varies
- Do no harm to occupants!
- Know your limits!

Lessons learned during the 28 years

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Content

- The things simple and complex
- Learn by seeing, listening and studying
- Research driven by practice
- 10 theses on mold and its remediation



Why to remediate mold, MVOC, toxins, mold allergens?

- Building mold is harmful to health
- Whether in residences, school, public buildings...
- Harmful to children and adults, to allergic and non-allergic individuals
- The only good treatment is to eliminate the exposure,
- Which means:
 - To remove the existing mold
 - To repair the cause of moisture accumulation or water intrusion that are causes of mold



The quest of mold

- We know that building mold is harmful to health
- We are yet to understand the many complex characteristics of mold
- We know enough to act!



"Soria Moria" by Theodor Kittelsen: a hero glimpses the end of his quest.



Aspects of mold – in a nutshell

- Probably the widest building-related health problem
- The main principles of the problem and its remediation are simple... come closer, everything will be highly complex
- One must know the simple principles and have an idea of the complexity of each individual issue...
- A good judgement and common sense are the essential tools for remediation practices, management and control policies



10 theses to cover building mold

- Water damage or dampness essential for mold
- Microbes present everywhere – grow anywhere if water available
- Growing microbes produce MVOC, allergens, toxins...
- Mold growth in building harmful to health
- Even dry mycelium may be harmful
- Moisture and mold should be prevented
- Key to remediation: elimination of exposure
- Mold must be removed, cause of damage repaired
- Clean what you can, discard the rest
- Remediation decreases symptoms

