

Solver Paints

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PRODUCT INFORMATION

SS-119

THE TREATMENT OF MOULD GROWTH AND ALGAE MOULD

Mould

Mould or mildew is a form of fungus which grows from spores present in most atmospheres but developing only if conditions are favourable. The essential requirements are moisture and organic material on which to feed. Any environment in which the relative humidity exceeds 70% for lengthy periods provides sufficient moisture, whilst there is usually a film of organic material on most building materials. Mould growth is likely to be most prolific in situations such as breweries, bakeries, cold rooms bathrooms and even some bedrooms, where there can be an ample supply of organic material and the relative humidity is above 70%, or there is condensation or some other source of water. Unlike most other vegetable growth, moulds do not require light for their development, and they are capable of flourishing in a wide range of temperatures.

Mould growths are not usually particularly destructive to paint films unless the infection is deep-seated or well-established but they are unsightly and often difficult to eradicate. They usually have a greyish or sooty appearance although some forms are coloured or produce stains which discolour the surface. Moulds can often be distinguished from dirt and chemical stains by examining the surface with a magnifying glass of x10 or higher magnification when the minute threads (hyphae) characteristic of most moulds can be seen.

Surfaces affected by mould growths should be treated by washing firstly with a bleach solution such as White King or Domestos mixed 1:3 with water. Apply thoroughly, allow to stand and soak on the mould area for 10 - 20 minutes before **thoroughly rinsing off** with clean water. Thorough washing with SOLVER Line 4651 Sterilizing Wall-Wash mixed with water according to the directions should then be carried out and this then allowed to dry on the surface **without rinsing off**. Severely contaminated surfaces may require more than one treatment.

Unpainted surfaces when exposed to the environment can become infested with mould spores which are not visible to the naked eye, so there is no obvious presence of mould. When painted over and supplied with sufficient water mould growth can result, which penetrates through and spoils the appearance of the painted finish. Porous materials such as fibrous cement and some timbers are prone to this problem, especially if construction design allows water from eg condensation or wind driven rain to supply water to the building material. Mould penetration from under the paint is difficult to eradicate, therefore it is much better to use a preventative treatment. At-risk surfaces should simply be washed down with SOLVER Line 4651 Sterilizing Wall-Wash used as directed. The surface should be allowed to dry **without rinsing off**, and should be painted as soon as is practical.

NOTE THAT WHEN USING THESE PRODUCTS, CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO PROTECT HANDS, SKIN AND EYES.

Because mould is dependant on moisture for its growth, the most effective deterrent is to lower the relative humidity and prevent condensation or water ingress by good ventilation, effective thermal insulation, and good building design. For example windows which can be open but secure or exhaust fans in bathrooms can ensure that surfaces dry quickly after use.

Weatherboards and other claddings should be fixed over appropriate vapour barriers to prevent condensation. Weatherboards should be primed on all surfaces to prevent wetting from wind-blown rain under laps. However, these measures are not always practical and may not be justified where the infection occurs only seasonally. The alternative is to control growth by regular application of SOLVER Line 4651 Sterilising Wall-Wash which leaves a residue of fungicide on the surface which discourages further growth.

If repainting is required, recoat the surface after thorough preparation as above with paint that has SOLVER Line 4651 Anti-Fungus Additive No.1 incorporated at the rate of 50ml per 4 litres of paint. This should NOT be added to products from the SOLVER Duraguard range or SOLVER Line 4572 Maxi Wash Interior Acrylic Semi Gloss as they already contain powerful anti-fungus additives.

The use of solvent based products such as SOLVER Line 4198 Satin Enamel or SOLVER Line 4171 High Gloss Enamel is strongly recommended in areas that are likely to have mould contamination, for example bathrooms etc. that have low ventilation rates.

Algae

Like mould, algae on exterior surfaces only thrives in the right conditions - plenty of moisture and nutrient on the surface, often from nearby vegetation. Unlike mould, algae requires daylight to grow. Sometimes it is not possible to change the environment other than by removing adjacent shrubs and trees on an outside wall, but the remedial treatment is similar to that for mould growth.

It is common to see this type of surface contamination on parapet walls where water is allowed to run off of the top and down the face. Areas where obstructions such as joints in cappings or the brickwork allow rain to be concentrated before flowing down the face are common areas where algae will grow.

In periods of dry weather, growths often turn to a grey colour resembling dirt and are sometimes removed by washing down with water. In fact this can serve to spread the growth to areas previously not affected, and is not recommended as spores may still be left active on the surface. Therefore a fungicidal wash should be used instead of water. SOLVER Line 4651 Sterilizing Wall-Wash is most suitable.

Many bare or painted exterior walls do not show evidence of algae growth, but are already in the very early stages of an attack. Because of this, it is a wise precaution to use the SOLVER Line 4651 Sterilizing Wall-Wash prior to painting, even where there is apparently no algae present. This is a simple and inexpensive operation, and well worth the extra time.

CHANGES SINCE LAST ISSUE:

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