

# Homeowner's Guide to Mold Prevention in Snohomish & King County

A homeowner checklist for Mold Prevention

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## Interior Moisture Check (Monthly)

- Check under every sink for slow drips or water stains.
- Look at ceilings and around windows for any new stains.
- Test bathroom fans: ensure they hold a square of toilet paper.
- Run bathroom fans for 30 mins after every shower.
- Examine window sills and tracks for condensation and mildew.
- Check caulking around tubs, showers, and sinks for cracks.

## Exterior & Foundation Check (Twice a Year)

- Confirm gutters are clear of leaves and debris.
- Ensure all downspouts drain at least 6 feet away from the foundation.
- Check that soil and mulch grade away from your foundation, not toward it.
- Look for peeling, bubbling, or cracked paint on exterior walls and trim.
- Inspect hose bibs (outdoor faucets) for leaks.
- Photograph any moss or green algae growing on siding.

## Crawlspace & Attic Quick Check (Annually)

- Photograph the general condition of your crawlspace vapor barrier.
- Look for any signs of standing water or mud in the crawlspace.
- Check for wet, compressed, or fallen insulation.
- In the attic, look for any dark stains on the underside of the roof sheathing.
- Confirm attic vents (soffit, ridge) are not blocked by insulation or debris.
- Verify that all ducts (dryer, bath fans) are connected and vent to the exterior.

## Small-Scale Surface Mold Cleanup

- Photograph the area before you begin cleaning.
- Wear an N95 mask, gloves, and eye protection.
- Use a solution of mild soap and water.
- Scrub the area with a brush until visible mold is gone.

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- Wipe the area with a clean, damp cloth.
- Completely dry the area using a fan or dehumidifier.
- Photograph the clean, dry area for your records.

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