

# The topical subject

## Pur-san<sup>3</sup> – Anti-mould system Three-component solution

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### The highly efficient anti-mould emergency programme

Beware of mould and fungal spores. The dark stains are not only a visual nuisance: they may also cause damage to the structure of buildings and cause serious health problems. Normal mould concentration levels are perfectly harmless to healthy humans, but higher concentrations due to favourable conditions pose a special problem.

Mould spores are airborne and may cause allergic reactions in the nose, the throat and the bronchial tubes. This leads to common colds and shortage of breath, sometimes together with coughing and itchy and swollen eyes. Some mould types form mycotoxin, a toxin which is also airborne. After inhalation, it may cause irritations of the mucous membranes of the air passages, damage to the immune system and inflammation of the lungs.

We often do not become aware of the fact that a problem actually exists until we see dark stains on the wall caused by mould.

### Mould – The invisible danger

Mould is a microorganism which is spread via spores. These travel invisibly in the air and thrive anywhere in moist, warm, organic environments. They only become visible to the naked eye once they have grown in secrecy for quite a long time.

In the case of mould infestation it is vital to find out the cause of moisture and any invisible mould which may exist. A musty, earthy smell may be a sign of hidden mould behind furniture, wallpaper, claddings or thick curtains.

Its resistance to extreme conditions such as dryness, strong heat or frost makes mould a veritable survivor. Dried mould stains should also be treated because the mould will come back to life if it is exposed to moisture again.

### Mould problems: causes and remedies

#### There are two main causes of indoor mould growth:

##### 1. Structural shortcomings

Mould loves humidity. Sources of humidity in and around the home can arise from structural shortcomings, e.g. water damage, insufficiently dried new buildings, cold bridges, cracks in masonry, slipped roofing tiles, overflowing gutters or rising moisture due to missing or defective horizontal water stops.

##### 2. Home-made problems

The problem is often home-made. Incorrect ventilation and heating behaviour, especially in houses airproofed in accordance with the new Energy Savings Ordinance, is a special problem. Many people underestimate the amount of moisture discharged into the indoor air every day. Up to 1.5 litres of moisture are generated when showering, and humans give off up to 1 litre of water into their living space every night. Foliage plants also release water, and several more litres are generated by cooking and laundry drying. This moisture must be transported outside by thorough ventilation.

Correct ventilation, however, is of no use without correct heating. Warm air absorbs more moisture than cool air, i.e. more moisture is transported outside.



#### Tips for mould prevention:

Keep the relative air humidity at approx. 50 %, e.g. by use of controlled ventilation systems.

Heat all rooms equally; the temperature difference between the individual rooms should not exceed 5 °C.

Doors leading to cooler rooms, e.g. to unheated bedrooms, should be kept closed in order to prevent warm and thus damp air from the other rooms from condensing on the walls.

Cross ventilate rooms 3-4 times a day: for 5-10 minutes (November until March), for 10-25 minutes (April until October); permanent ventilation by tilting of windows is not recommended.

Ventilate basements correctly: keep doors/windows closed in summer, provide sufficient draught in winter. Only ventilate basements if the outdoor temperature falls below the indoor wall temperature.

Discharge moisture from showering or cooking to the outside immediately. Do not dry laundry in the flat.

Use vapour permeable construction materials and wall coatings, e.g. all products from the AURO Lime paints range.

Leave at least 5 cm distance between furniture and outer walls. Find 'cold bridges' because insufficiently insulated structural components (e.g. roller shutter cases) cool down the inner walls, where air humidity then condenses.

## If mould has already settled, tackle it:

The earlier you fight mould after its discovery the better. Badly infested areas should be treated as soon as possible because mould spores are dispersed with every air movement. Conventional mould removal agents often contain questionable chlorine compounds. These anti-mould products just create new health problems in your home.

Here highly efficient solutions are required. AURO offers an alternative system which is free of chlorine and toxic evaporations but still eliminates mould very efficiently.

**Tip:** Porous materials such as wallpaper or gypsum plasterboard which are very badly infested must not be cleaned but completely removed. It is not recommended to apply interior wall coatings based on organic materials (wallpaper, wallpaper paste, organic paints and plaster) following the treatment. It is preferable to apply a highly alkaline wall paint such as AURO Anti-mould paint No. 327 or another product from AURO's High-grade Lime Range.

**In addition to fighting visible mould with AURO's three-component Anti-mould system, it is vital to remedy the cause of mould growth to solve the mould problem permanently!**



## Pur-san³ – AURO's anti-mould system

AURO's ecological, chlorine-free alternative Pur-san<sup>3</sup> comes in a practical box and offers everything you need to fight and prevent mould. AURO has developed a three-component system for the reliable elimination of mould. This is how it works:

### Step 1: Mould eliminator # 412

AURO Mould eliminator is chlorine-free. It is suitable for use on tiles, walls, wood and plastic, exterior and interior, also in damp rooms. Please check surface compatibility in an inconspicuous area prior to use.

Spray the disinfectant Mould eliminator onto the infested surfaces and allow to soak in for at least one hour, longer in case of severe infestation. Then wipe off with a soft brush or sponge and absorb dissolved residues. The product can be washed off without leaving any residue. **Contents:** water, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, vinegar, sugar surfactant, aspartic acid.

### Step 2: Mould stop # 413

Stops mould infestation permanently in an efficient and material-friendly manner. Mould stop is based on natural ingredients, prevents reinfestation on a long-term basis and is free of chlorine.

Pretreat infested surfaces with AURO Mould eliminator # 412 prior to using Mould stop. Please check surface compatibility prior to use. Then spray Mould stop onto the surface and let dry. Follow-up treatment should be made with AURO Anti-mould paint # 327. **Contents:** water; alcohol; salicylic acid; sugar surfactant.

### Step 3: Anti-mould paint # 327

AURO Anti-mould paint is a solvent-free, breathable interior wall paint based on minerals. This ready-to-use paint is characterised by its good coverage. Thanks to its high pH value (approx. 12), walls painted with AURO Anti-mould paint are largely resistant to reinfestation. **Contents:** water; calcium hydroxide; titanium dioxide; mineral fillers, cellulose.

AURO Anti-mould paint is very easy to use: Apply to surfaces at risk by brush or roller. The consumption rate amounts to approx. 0,10 – 0,14 l per m<sup>2</sup>, depending on the surface. Please carry out a test application to assess the paint's compatibility with old coatings. The wall paint is not suitable for permanently damp areas.

AURO Anti-mould paint can be tinted with AURO Lime tinting base # 350. These tinting paints are available in 7 colour tones that can be freely mixed among each other to obtain a multitude of colour tones. Find more information on the AURO Lime tinting base on [www.auro.com](http://www.auro.com).

AURO  
Lime tinting base  
# 350 - full tones -

350-35  
Terracotta

350-05  
Yellow

350-55  
Light blue

350-45  
oxide red

350-85  
brown

350-65  
green

350-95  
anthracite

Please note that these are reproductions of the original colours. In practice, deviations can appear, depending on the type of substrate or the method of application.

## Safety advice

Avoid skin and eye contact with Mould stop, Mould eliminator and Anti-mould paint. After contact with skin, wash immediately with plenty of water. Keep out of the reach of children. To be on the safe side, wear protective gloves, a mask and eye protection during application. Allergic persons, persons with chronic respiratory diseases or a weak immune system must never carry out any repair work themselves or be in the same room during such work due to the inevitably dispersing mould particles. **Storage stability:** 2 years in unopened container.

Consider possible allergies to natural substances. The current full declaration on [www.auro.com](http://www.auro.com) is authoritative.

Use biocides safely. Always read labelling and safety instructions before use.

