MPS No. 1004

Subject: **Mold**

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The building industry is continually learning about the growth of mold. Homeowners and building professionals are concerned over the potential for mold growth and the impact on the living environment. This bulletin is designed to provide a basic overview of mold in structures.

Mold problems in structures are normally directly related to a moisture problem. Common moisture problems are the result of water leaks and/or the lack of attention to flashing and building details.

Molds are a type of fungi in the same family as mushrooms and yeasts. Molds need the right conditions to grow. This is typically a temperature between 40 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit and 20% moisture content in the product they are attacking. Thus, an area of a building with a water problem is an ideal environment for mold growth. Under warm and humid conditions, they can quickly multiply and spread over wall surfaces and building materials.

Molds are an essential part of the world with the function of breaking down the basic components of plants and other natural organic materials. The molds of concern to the building industry get their nutrients from the starches and sugars in wood and paper products.

ThermaFoam R-Control insulation does not contain the starches or sugars as found in wood or paper products.

ThermaFoam R-Control insulation provides no nutrient value to plants, animals, or microorganisms. Therefore, bacteria and fungi (mold) do not multiply due to the presence of insulation.

If a mold problem is encountered in a structure, a building professional should be consulted.