

Tech Scientists Conclude Black Mold Is Toxic

by KAMC 28

Scientists at Texas Tech prove for the first time that black mold in homes and buildings can be toxic to people.

Scientists and doctors have believed for years that stachybotrys, or black mold, was making people sick. But a team of scientists at Tech are the first people in the world to conduct a study that proves it.

Dr. David Straus, a professor in the Microbiology and Immunology Department at Texas Tech, has been trying to prove for years that toxins from black mold can get in the air and make people sick.

"We always have believed these mycotoxins that stachybotrys produces are what make people sick," he said. "We didn't have the equipment that would allow us to collect high concentrations of air until the Spincon came along."

The Spincon was initially built back in 2001 after the 9-11 attacks, when anthrax threats swarmed the U.S. Straus

and four other scientists heard what the Spincon could do and decided it was just the machine they needed to prove black mold is toxic.

"What we have shown is when mold produces, and they actually are inhaled and get into human beings, it causes tissue damage," said Straus.

Straus says some of the symptoms of exposure to black mold toxins are stomach problems, hair loss and mental confusion.

He says using the Spincon to prove black mold is toxic means fewer people will be exposed in the future.

"What this study allows people to do is alert people that poisons are present in the building," he said.

Dr. Straus says black mold grows in houses and buildings after some type of water damage. He says if you think you have a mold problem, do not try to remove the mold your-

self; hire professionals to do it or you could easily inhale the dangerous toxins.

