



# 10 Hidden Causes of Mold in Your Dialysis Center



When patients enter your dialysis center, how confident can they be that they will be receiving treatment in a mold free environment? How confident can your employees be that they are working in such an atmosphere?

**The answer may surprise you.**

Although dialysis centers like yours seek to maintain a healthy and sterile environment for the well-being of both at-risk patients and employees, the reality is that mold growth is a common occurrence in these establishments. The products and processes, as well as normal wear and tear, may actually be facilitating unseen mold growth throughout your center. At Advanced Mold Diagnostics, we have extensive experience both evaluating and remediating mold in dialysis centers and other health care facilities. We know where to look, and what to do when mold is found. To help you get started evaluating your own situation, we have compiled the following list of the 9 hidden causes of mold in your dialysis center.

## 1. Reverse Osmosis

The reverse osmosis system used to provide bacteria free clean water to dialysis patients can be a source of mold problems in dialysis centers. Because the reverse osmosis system can develop leaks, this accumulation of moisture that often goes unseen can create the ideal environment for mold growth.

## 2. Acidic Products

The highly acidic products used during water treatment and other processes, though important, can also pose a risk. Although these products provide powerful cleaning agents, they can also break down lines of water and equipment over time through continual exposure. The results can range from mild leaks to major flooding problems and anything in between. The water accumulated during these accidents can provide the moisture mold needs to grow.



### 3. Water Treatment Rooms

Water Treatment Rooms, sometimes just called Water Rooms, are typically the sites of the worst mold growth. The combination of moisture from potential leaks and spills and a generally undisturbed environment often creates an ideal environment for the fungi to grow. Signs of mold growth may include dark spots or apparent water staining as well as an unpleasant, musty smell.

### 4. Moisture on the Treatment Floor

Although we would all hope that these areas, where patients spend the most time, would be the cleanest, the reality is that the treatment floor or dialyzing stations are the second most common area of concern for Dialysis Centers. Your employees are focused on caring for patients, so they do not necessarily have the time to attend to every small leak at these machines. And where moisture lingers, mold may soon follow.



### 5. Undetected Leaks & Spills

Unfortunately, not all instances of moisture accumulation and mold growth are so easily detected. Because the RO systems along with the Acid & Bi Carb lines run through a chase, leaks can and do often occur undetected. Just one broken or leaking fitting can create the moisture needed for mold to begin to grow and, unseen and unchecked, it may continue to grow and spread. By the time such a problem is noticed, the mold growth may be quite severe.

## 6. Janitorial Procedures

It seems almost ironic that the elements used to clean your facilities may actually contribute to eventual mold growth. And yet, janitorial closets where wet equipment is often stored without the room being ventilated properly sets the stage for microbial growth. As the cleaning company comes in day after day, using equipment that may have been exposed to mold, cross-contamination to other areas is possible.



## 7. Flooding

Even a dialysis center is not free from the threats of nature. Depending upon the layout and location of your facilities, flooding may be another area of concern. Although repeated floods pose the worst threats, even a single event can leave the water damage mold needs to get started.

## 8. Improper Ventilation

What does ventilation look like at your Dialysis Center? Do all of the areas where water or steam may accumulate have systems in place to sufficiently dry out the air? Improper ventilation is a frequent cause of mold growth in many homes and businesses, and the increased presence of moisture at Dialysis Centers only compounds this potential problem.

## 9. Structural Damage

Almost any building has the potential for mold growth if there is structural damage, such as cracks in the foundation or walls. Even the smallest of these can let water in where it may remain undetected. Mold growth is only one of the problems which can occur when such damage exists, so it is important to assess your facilities on a regular basis.



## 10. Fiber Reinforced Plastic

High moisture impacted areas/rooms such as the Water Treatment room are often covered in FRP (Fiber Reinforced Plastic). The FRP is great at protecting GWB (Gypsum Wall Board) from getting wet, but hides wet GWB and does not allow it to dry out creating the perfect environment for microbial growth.

**Do you need a trusted, lead-safe certified  
mold remediation contractor?**

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