GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community & Agency Partners

FROM: Director Richard Jackson, DOEE *p/p. Michael Somersall*

DATE: June 12, 2026

SUBJECT: DOEE Mold Licensing Program Updates

Overview

As of June 12, 2026, DOEE is no longer conducting residential mold complaint inspections for violations related to the presence of mold in rental housing. Also, the mold complaint link on our website has been deactivated. DOEE will continue licensing and regulating mold professionals. The Department of Buildings (DOB) will be conducting all housing code enforcement activities including mold violations.

Why This Change Is Taking Place

DOEE's Statutory Role

Section 302 of the Air Quality Amendment Act of 2013 (D.C. Law 20-135; D.C. Code §§ 8-241.01 – 8-241.09) and its implementing regulations (20 DCMR Ch. 32) limit DOEE's mold authority to licensing and regulating mold assessors and remediators. The statute does not authorize DOEE to conduct inspections or initiate enforcement actions against landlords or rental property owners related to the presence of mold contamination in rental properties.

DOB's Enforcement Authority

DOB has authority to inspect and take enforcement actions for mold-related housing violations under the Property Maintenance Code, Title 12 G of the DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR), by issuing Notices of Infraction and penalties for noncompliance.

Tenant Protection & Legal Framework

D.C. Code § 8-241.04(a) provides that "[a] residential property owner who receives written or electronic notice from a tenant that indoor mold or suspected indoor mold exists in the dwelling unit or in a common area of the property shall inspect the property within 7 days and remediate the condition within 30 days of the inspection unless a shorter timeframe is ordered by a court or the Mayor." Further, "[a] professional indoor mold assessment finding indoor mold contamination in a tenant's dwelling unit or a common area of the property shall create a

rebuttable presumption of a violation of … the Property Maintenance Code and the Housing Code," which may be used "[i]n a private cause of action, claim, or defense by a tenant against a residential property."

What This Means for Tenants in the District

If indoor mold contamination is present (or suspected to be present) within your rental property:

1. Notify your landlord in writing (text, email, or handwritten).
2. Landlord must inspect within 7 days and remediate within 30 days of the inspection.
3. If unresolved, tenants may:
   - Report Housing Code violations to DOB (https://dob.dc.gov/service/get-inspection).
   - Hire a DOEE-licensed mold professional (https://doee.dc.gov/node/1186841)
   - File a complaint DC Superior Court's Housing Conditions Court;
   - Contact the Office of the Tenant Advocate at https://ota.dc.gov or (202) 719-6560.

As always, we appreciate your partnership and cooperation. Please feel free to share this information within your networks. For questions, reach out to the DOEE Mold Licensing Program at (202) 535-2600.