

Notes on three DIY jobs

Story one:

(Before and after lab results are found beneath this description.)

Following professional remediation in one room, this homeowner opted to do the post-remediation cleaning of the rest of the house herself, rather than have the remediator clean. We knew there was cross-contamination from the site of remediation. Here is how Kim proceeded with the cleaning, which in the end cost her \$300, compared to the \$3000 the remediator had estimated.

First, Kim hired a cleaning service and provided them with what she wanted them to use. They cleaned the walls and ceilings and did general cleaning. She did the final cleaning, with her Shark HEPA vacuum.

I do not know these products, whether they are least-toxic or not, but Kim is mold sensitive, chose the products, and did fine with them. Hear her words:

They did not vacuum the walls at all. Only used the cleaning solution with that mop or microfiber cloths I provided. The carpet they were supposed to use HEPA but I think they used regular, but carpet was then immediately shampooed anyway with Zep carpet cleaner. Once dry I vacuumed with my Shark HEPA vac.

Chomp Long Handle Dust Mop:5 Minute CleanWalls Extendable Wall Washer, Ceiling Cleaner and Baseboard Duster - Telescoping Dry Dust / Wet Wash Cleaning Mop with Washable Microfiber Pad

www.amazon.com/dp/B011RY65WO/

Chomp Painted Wall Cleaner Spray: Healthier Home 5-Minute CleanWalls 4-in-1 Multipurpose Cleaner - Painted Wall, Ceiling and Baseboard Cleaning Spray - Dirt, Dust, Odor and Stain Remover - 32 Ounces

www.amazon.com/dp/B082LVMG8T/

[Note from May: This product is scented. You might use just plain hydrogen peroxide or www.branchbasics.com.]

The extension pole comes with 2 different types of removable mop head covers—yellow to use with the cleaning solution and blue for regular dusting. We used the blue cover first to remove some dust on the walls/trim and then changed it to the yellow for the cleaning solution. So although no HEPA vacuum on walls, they were sort of dusted first.

See the next attachment, where Kim shares her before-and-after lab results. (Assured Bio Lab, Big 2 test, dust sample on DNA level)

A summary of the lab reports shows the following:

Results were amazing for most of the areas. I told Kim that with these results, she brought hope to many homeowners.

There were two adjacent rooms that still had some elevations. Upon discussion, Kim realized that there were a few tops of windows that she had tested but forgotten to clean first – so there was an easy explanation for why the two rooms still had some elevations.

BUT PAUSE HERE A MOMENT. The rooms were clean, except for small areas of forgotten dust. Sampling the “old dust” skewed the reasons for the rooms. Some professionals recommend doing spring cleaning, then waiting two weeks before sampling for ERMI (Assured Bio Lab Big Two test costs less and includes more.) Could sampling “old dust” be why so many ERMI test results have failing scores?

Kim’s Big 2 (\$85 each) lab results from Assured Bio Lab, www.assuredbio.com:


	Room Dust	Family Room	Master Bedroom
Assured Bio ID:	6/7/21	KH060921-12-1	KH060921-12-2
Sample Type:		Swab	Swab
Reporting Units:		Cells/Swab	Cells/Swab
<i>Chaetomium globosum</i>		6,389	2,077
<i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i> svar. 1		221	1,914
<i>Penicillium/Aspergillus</i>		54,830	16,008
<i>Stachybotrys chartarum</i>		5,832	404
<i>Trichoderma viride/atviride/koningii</i>		ND	ND



Pre-cleaning

Room Dust 9/7/21

	Master Bedroom	Family Room	Kitchen	Living & Dining Rm	Foyer & Hall
Assured Bio ID:	KH090821-25-1	KH090821-25-2	KH090821-25-3	KH090821-25-4	KH090821-25-5
Sample Type:	Swab	Swab	Swab	Swab	Swab
Reporting Units:	SEU/Swab	SEU/Swab	SEU/Swab	SEU/Swab	SEU/Swab
<i>Chaetomium globosum</i>	ND	ND	ND	469	561
<i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i> svar. 1	32	20	68	638	845
<i>Penicillium/Aspergillus</i>	182	75	96	3,949	841
<i>Stachybotrys chartarum</i>	ND	ND	ND	54	19
<i>Trichoderma viride/atriviride/koningii</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND


 Post
 cleaning

Did you note that dramatic drop in particulates for Aspergillus/Penicillium in the Family room from 54,830 to 75? and for Stachybotrys from 5,832 to ND (not detected)? And Chaetomium from 6,389 to ND? These are phenomenal numbers. I told Kim that her work “brings hope to homeowners.”

But the levels in the Living room/Dining room and Foyer/hall were still elevated because of that “old dust” issue.

She also had the cleaning company do carpet cleaning – see below. Of course, it is controversial about whether the carpet should have been removed...but her efforts worked for Kim, and she is mold sensitive.

Carpet Dust 9/7/21

Master
Bedroom

Family
Room

Assured Bio ID:	KH090821-26-1	KH090821-26-2
Sample Type:	Dust	Dust
Reporting Units:	Spores/mg	Spores/mg
<i>Chaetomium globosum</i>	ND	ND
<i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i> svar. 1	6	5
<i>Penicillium/Aspergillus</i>	8	3
<i>Stachybotrys chartarum</i>	ND	ND
<i>Trichoderma viride/atririviride/koningii</i>	ND	ND

Story two

Hi May,

Yes, Jon-Don (www.jondon.com) is a great resource. I recently bought gloves from them when gloves were hard to find at a reasonable price.

No odor for Lime Prime (www.earthpaint.net) - love it. Thanks for the referral. This is the 2nd job he's used it on. I don't remember any odor. I was looking at it the next day, not when he painted it.

Yes, we can go into business. Each time it gets less and less expensive since I have everything I need and know what I'm doing. Hoping this is the LAST time for this house.

Warmly
Sandra

Story three

The remediator did an incomplete job, potentially spreading Chaetomium throughout the house. The Chaetomium showed up in my post-testing air samples.

He suggested that the HVAC contractors working in the attic may have contaminated the house with Chaetomium, not his job (where Chaetomium was being cleaned up). He recommended that the homeowners hire a cleaning service and get the house cleaned. [You hear right - May]

After the cleaning service completed their work, I did another round of post-spore trap testing which showed the absence of Chaetomium. Sounds like the remediator should take on the cleaning company for his final cleaning.