Mold and Mildew Care and Prevention

Molds might best be defined as a growth of minute fungi, or as any of the fungi that produce such a growth. Mildew is best described as a coating or discoloration, caused by fungi, when the substrate is exposed to moisture, or as any of the fungi that produce such a growth.

While STAR Cedar Sheds does it utmost to eliminate the exposure to moisture of our shed components, incidents in storage, handling, and transfer of products can result in situations where molds or mildew can result. Both are limited to situations where the environment is damp, stagnant, dark, and where airborne spores can find the product.

Spores of molds and mildew are as common as dust and are found virtually everywhere, so the occurrence of the other criterion can easily result in incidence of either fungi. Neither is a real cause for concern, especially with Western Red Cedar, one of nature’s most durable products, and both can easily be dealt with. In dealing with the problem, however, you also correct the unsightly appearance of these fungi. The condition will likely never reoccur after the shed is assembled, as the dark and stagnant aspect of the growing condition is usually not duplicated. You should take care not to create this type of environment by storing products or growing plants along the surface of the shed, inhibiting light, and airflow, or holding moisture in contact with the shed itself.

To rectify any mold or mildew condition:

1. simply prepare a solution of 3 quarts (or litres) of water, to 1 quart (or litre) of household bleach, along with ¼ cup (250 ml) of ammonia free liquid dishwasher detergent. Do not use bleach older than six months as it will lose its effectiveness. Also, do not use ammonia based detergent, as it can give off harmful gases, when mixed with bleach.

2. Using a spray canister designed for insecticide application, apply the solution liberally. Allow to penetrate for 15-30 minutes. This allows the bleach time to permeate the fungus and kill all the spores present. The non-foaming liquid dishwasher soap aids in the removal of the mold, mildew, or any dirt associated.

3. If you have access to a power washer, power wash the substrate using the same solution. Use a power washer of approximately 2500 PSI, with no less than a 25° nozzle. Do not spray closer than 12” (300 mm) as this can damage the substrate. If a power washer is not available, a soft brush should be used and the substrate should be fully scrubbed and then rinsed in clear water afterwards.

4. Allow to dry.

By following these directions, the mold or mildew issue should be completely eradicated and you should not have any type of recurrence.