www.polytox.info



On the Trail of the Pathogens **Effects and Measurement of Mycotoxins Indoors**

Aerogenically transmissible metabolic products of certain moulds can lead to a wide variety of diseases even in very low concentrations, and some of them even have carcinogenic effects.

Health Hazards of Mycotoxins

Mycotoxins are secondary metabolites of a number of moulds. With the discovery of aflatoxins, the health hazards of mycotoxins were already recognised in the 1960s.

In recent years, many medical publications have described the possible health consequences of mycotoxins as CIRS – Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome – and their underlying mechanisms. CIRS is a multi-system disease with many symptoms, which often occurs especially in water-damaged buildings and is often overlooked by doctors. Mycotoxins have exacerbating effects on conditions such as asthma, multiple sclerosis, immunodeficiency, autoimmune diseases, etc.

Currently, in practice, mycological analyses mostly concentrate on the qualitative and quantitative detection of moulds in indoor air. However, moulds produce low-molecular, non-volatile compounds with high thermal and chemical stability: mycotoxins, when there is a high supply of nutrients and also generally after the end of the vegetative growth phase. Particularly in indoor spaces, it should be noted that these substances, which are hazardous to health, may still be present even if the moulds have already been removed or killed. Without the analysis for mycotoxins in the sampled environment, possible existing risks to health are not adequately assessed.

Simple Detection with Wipe Samples

To assess health risks in water-damaged buildings, there is now a simple way for interested parties such as experts, tenants and those affected to examine moisture damage for mycotoxins. For this purpose, there is the PolyTox wipe test, with which



samples are taken from wall surfaces in damaged rooms. All materials necessary for professional sampling, such as wiping cloth, test template, protective gloves, protocol, etc. are included, and the sample is then analysed in the **domatec** test laboratory. You will then receive a test report with individual recommendations for action.

Risk Assessment at Workplaces

The PolyTox-Check in combination with domatec's modern laboratory analysis technology also opens up new possibilities for risk assessment in workplaces, especially for bioaerosols and their risks to humans and products. In workplaces, it can be useful to combine the wipe samples with air samples.



Mycotoxin findings in mould damage: Read the technical article "Proben nehmen - aber richtig!" (German only) about a case study on a property with old mould damage.



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