

### STCA Update

[www.steeltruss.org](http://www.steeltruss.org)

## Do You Need to Know About Mold? by Brigit Frank

As manufacturers of steel components, you probably think that the answer to this question is no. After all, steel is an inorganic material and therefore, does not support the growth of mold. This is a fact, but it does not reflect the public's perception.

A number of high profile lawsuits as well as extensive media coverage are bringing the topic of mold in construction to the attention of the general public. This is creating a concern that people's homes, schools and offices may be harming their health.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Like so many other situations faced by the construction industry, STCA's recommendation is to provide education, present a consistent message and take a uniform, united approach to quell the fears of our customers and the public. If the members of the construction industry learn the facts about mold and steel, we can educate our customers when questions arise.

To help communicate facts about mold to the construction industry, STCA has created a fact sheet in our Steel Components in Construction series, "Facts Regarding Mold on Steel Components." We feel that once the public absorbs information about mold on steel components, the issue will become what it should be—a non issue. And, while there are still some questions about the health risks associated with exposure to mold, there are facts about the presence of mold including:

**Fact:** Any well-designed, constructed and maintained home, regardless of the materials used in its construction, will not support conditions suitable for the growth of mold. If built to code, the inside of the home (including the interior spaces and the building cavities) will stay dry enough that mold spores remain dormant.



**Fact:** Mold and mildew are symptoms of high moisture conditions, which when present for prolonged periods, can damage the building materials in any home.

**Fact:** The most practical approach to limiting mold growth is early detection and prompt resolution of the reason for excessive moisture.

**Fact:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not regulate mold or mold spores in indoor air.

There is a great deal of information about mold that can be stated as fact. By learning the difference between the facts and fiction you will be serving your customers and your industry. For current information about mold and the construction industry or to order "Facts Regarding Mold on Steel Components," please visit STCA's web site, or call us at 608/268-1031.

## STCA CREATES JOBSITE WARNING POSTER

We just finished work on our new jobsite warning poster. STCA's warning poster has the "do's" and "don'ts" of steel truss erection and bracing detailed for builders. It features illustrations instructing builders on proper techniques for unloading, storing, lifting, erecting and bracing steel trusses. The engineered drawings incorporate the universal red warning labels accompanied by written instructions to provide an easy-to-follow reference for all jobsites. An ideal education and safety management approach can be incorporated by placing your steel truss placement plan on the back of the warning poster to ensure that it is seen and read as the components are placed in their proper location.



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