

# **Compro Services Ltd.**

## **News Letter**

### **Mildew**

Mildew is a destructive growth that feeds on a variety of organic materials, such as cotton, wood, and leather. While dormant mildew exists freely in the environment, conditions of dampness and warmth can provide the ingredients for rapid growth, frequently within 72 hours.

Since mildew feeds on organic materials, it eventually causes a loss in fiber strength and unsightly discoloration. These effects are not reversible. Once deteriorated by mildew, fibers are permanently damaged. The gray splotches that sometimes develop on walls and fabrics following water damage, are colonies of the mildew fungi, and represent an advanced stage of growth.

A variety of fungicidal solutions are available which kill mildew without damaging fabrics. They must come into direct contact with the organism to be effective, but the procedures sometimes require multiple treatments.

It is important to recognize that complete and permanent elimination of mildew requires that the conditions which stimulate mildew growth – primarily dampness - be eliminated. No matter what germicides are employed, a continuing damp condition at temperatures over 65 ° F will eventually result in renewed mildew growth. Because many household items utilize organic materials, these furnishings are frequently affected by mildew, especially in basement environments. Oriental rugs, upholstery fabrics, and clothing in closets are frequent victims. Thorough drying of all sides of the item is an essential step in mildew removal.