



# **Wood Truss Council of America**

*Serving the Component Manufacturing Industry Since 1983*

**To: Builders and Contractors Purchasing Wood Trusses and Related Components**

**Re: Mold and Mildew on Structural Wood Components**

Misconceptions regarding mold, health issues and potential liability are of mutual concern to builders, contractors, and suppliers.

Since molds come from spores that float in the air, they are ever present in our daily life. It is therefore impossible to control mold when wood has a higher than normal moisture content. Moisture content above 19 percent for approximately one week is required for significant surface mold growth to occur on lumber contained within wood trusses and structural components. In most situations, surface mold growth is a superficial phenomenon that does not affect the strength or long-term durability of the lumber.

Reasonable amounts of wetting can be endured during the framing process. Framing will dry out, however, under dry outdoor weather conditions after the structure is put under roof, sheathed, sided and roughed-in (mechanicals) and assuming the trusses and structural components are not exposed to further wetting from rain. Such drying must occur before the framing is closed in or covered up with insulation and drywall.

Good construction planning will allow construction projects to be sequenced to protect all moisture-sensitive building materials, including lumber, trusses and structural components, from excessive wetting that could lead to mold and will give wet building materials a chance to dry before close in. Any surface mold that may exist can be easily removed by scrubbing with water and detergent followed by rinsing.

Since the emergence of mold on lumber is a naturally occurring process, our customers should be aware that we will disclaim any obligation to undertake an inspection to determine if molds exist on trusses and structural components. We will furthermore disclaim any liability for the negative effects of the emergence of mold on wood trusses and components, and will disclaim any duty to replace, remove or remediate any wood trusses and components at a job-site that may contain mold.

Please see the Wood Truss Council of America's [Facts Regarding Mold on Wood Structural Building Components](#) and the [Builder Advisory Checklist for Minimizing Mold on Structural Building Components](#), and contact your supplier for additional discussion on this topic. The members of the WTCA stand behind the content of this letter.

Sincerely,

Kendall R. Hoyd  
WTCA President