

ERMI-DNA MOLD TESTING

Mold is quite ubiquitous, it is everywhere. There is growing concern for mold's presence in our homes, schools, churches, and at our places of work. Before you can stop mold's presence, you have to find it. That involves a certified environmental mold inspection along with proper protocols of testing.

There are many ways to test for microbial (mold) growth. However there are predetermined factors that have to be assessed. One of the new, faster and more reliable methods is the ERMI (Environmental Relative Moldiness Index) test. This test was developed by scientists at the USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency). The ERMI test employs DNA forensic investigation technology. It is accomplished by a single dust sample collected from various areas of the home. It is based on the prevalence of 36 mold species found in two groups of 1100 homes across the US. Group 1 was from substantial moisture-damaged homes (moldy homes); Group 2 was from homes without substantial moisture damage (reference homes). For the calculation of the ERMI, all concentrations are log-transformed and the sum of Group 2 is subtracted from the sum of Group 1. The results provide a standard that is an objective method for determining or screening homes for mold.

The following are two specimen reports from EMSL Analytical, Inc and EMLabs P&K. Both labs are authorized by the EPA to perform the test analysis.