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Black mould in your home can cause terrifying hallucinations of demons and ghosts.



Could mould be causing terrifying hallucinations?

One in three people in Britain believes that a house can be haunted and 28 per cent think they've experienced a 'supernatural presence', according to a YouGov survey.

But a growing number of scientists now believe toxic mould - which grows on the walls of damp homes in the UK - could be to blame.

It comes as Emma Marshall blamed a string of health problems on the black mould in her flat.

The 29-year-old, who noticed the black mould at her flat in Hackney, east London, suffers from exhaustion, memory loss and her hair has been falling out in clumps.



Emma blames the mould for her raft of health problems.

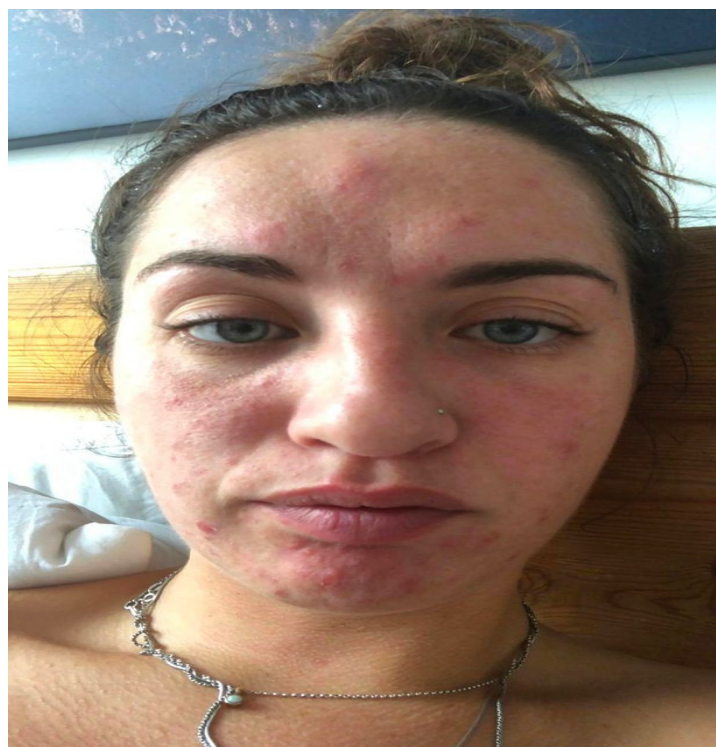
Emma, who works in the music industry, has also suffered from brain fog, chronic nerve pain and skin rashes.

She thought nothing of the "thick black mould" in the bathroom of her flat when she moved in in 2014.

But, since moving out the following year, her health has steadily declined.

She is now hoping revolutionary treatment will help her expert symptoms.

But experts claim the terrifying hallucinations can be banished by simply scrubbing the mould off.



Emma has suffered horrific symptoms and blames the mould in her old flat.

Ralitsa Prodanova of leading domestic services firm Fantastic Services said:
"For eye-witnesses who experience supernatural encounters, the events can be extremely traumatic.

"And when the paranormal activity is centred on your own home it can prove even more frightening.

"But it's important to remember that there could well be a rational, domestic explanation for all manner of spirits, poltergeists and demons.

"Several studies have suggested the toxic black mould that grows on damp walls could be a factor.

"These living, organic moulds can send spores - clumps of microscopic seeds - into the air, spreading like a virus.



"One of the worst-offending types - [Stachybotrys chartarum](#) - is present in many homes in the UK, and the mycotoxins it produces can cause respiratory problems, inflammation of the skin, tiredness and nausea.

"Meanwhile some types of fungus - particularly the rye ergot fungus - have a psychedelic effect when ingested, causing hallucinations and delusions.

"These moulds could well be behind many ghost sightings. And it's important homeowners are aware of the dangers."

The phenomenon was first examined in 2007 by experts in Maryland, USA, who christened it 'Sick Building Syndrome', or 'SBS', and documented the effects in the journal 'Neurotoxicology and Teratology'.

Lead author Ritchie Shoemaker analysed the inhabitants of water damaged, and mould-ridden buildings, and found patients had compromised 'neurological function', as well as a host of other toxicity-related ailments.



And in 2015, a team of scientists from Clarkson University, New York, studied the links between hauntings and toxic mould.

Associate Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering Shane Rogers sampled the air quality in buildings associated with alleged ghost activity.

He said: "Hauntings are very widely reported phenomena that are not well-researched.

"They are often reported in older-built structures that may also suffer poor air quality.

"Similarly, some people have reported depression, anxiety and other effects from exposure to biological pollutants in indoor air.

"We are trying to determine whether some reported hauntings may be linked to specific pollutants found in indoor air."



He also added: "Although allergy and asthma symptoms and other physiological effects are well established, there has long been controversy over the effects of indoor mould exposure on cognitive and other functioning of the brain."

American physicist and paranormal sceptic Dr Harry Kloor is also convinced mould is to blame for many supernatural events.

He said: "A common airborne fungus will actually grow on latex paint and produces these ergot alkaloids which cause people to hallucinate. This could explain the bizarre things that people are seeing."

The NHS warns that, 'if you have damp and mould in your home, you're more likely to have respiratory problems, respiratory infections, allergies or asthma.

Damp and mould can also affect the immune system.'

Some are worse affected than others, too, with babies and children, the elderly and those with existing problems, such as eczema or asthma, particularly susceptible.



But thankfully there are methods to combat toxic black mould.

Fantastic Services professional Ralitsa says: "If you're attempting to clean black mould yourself, always wear a protective mask, rubber gloves and safety glasses.

"And the most effective method of combating mould is to pour bleach into a spraying bottle, before covering mouldy areas and letting the bleach get to work for 30 minutes.

"Open all windows to allow any toxic fumes to escape.

"Then wipe and rinse the area and leave it to dry, before disposing of the cloth used.

"Bear in mind that bleach is a strong chemical product, which makes it dangerous for people with allergies, sensitive skin, as well as kids."



Excess moisture in buildings typically comes from leaking pipes, rising damp in basements or ground floors, or rain seeping in because of damage to the roof or around window frames.

In a newly-built home, damp can occur if the water used when the house was built is still drying out.

A common place for mould to grow in your home is the bathroom.

**But not everyone is convinced black
mould can cause supernatural visitations.**

John Fraser, a paranormal researcher and a member of the Council of the Society for Psychical Research, said: "What happens from time to time is that 'academics' are keen to get a simple natural explanation to what is likely a complex event, be they 'paranormal' or not.

"There are far better theories for triggers that might momentarily change people's consciousness and give people the feeling of being totally 'spooked'."