



Water Treatment Division 336-727-8000 cityofws.org/utilities

What is that slimy black substance on my faucet?

The presence of a black jellylike substance in moist areas of the kitchen or bathroom is likely a fungus called *Aspergillus niger* that occurs naturally in our environment and travels through the air. Given the right growing conditions, *Aspergillus niger* will colonize and produce black stains on surfaces.

Typical Source

If water stands long enough it can lose its residual chlorine disinfectant. Constantly damp surfaces are also a prime growth site for black mold. It can commonly be found in the following locations:

- Kitchen and bath faucets (aerators)
- Dishwashers
- Washing machines
- Toilet tanks and bowls
- Showerheads
- Bathroom tile
- Shower curtains
- Drains

Kitchens and bathrooms are the most common sites for black mold because these areas tend to have a warm and humid atmosphere. These locations also provide the fungus with a source of organic nutrition from shampoo, soap, conditioner, hairspray, liquid dish detergent and food particles.

Cleaning Recommendations

Once established, black mold usually cannot be eliminated entirely. To help reduce growth, treat areas with a spray product that contains bleach or another disinfectant. Improving ventilation in the affected area may also help reduce growth.

To clean your bathtub faucet:

- Scrub the inside with a toothbrush
- Spray the inside with a disinfectant that contains bleach
- Rinse thoroughly

To clean your sink faucet and aerator:

- Remove the aerator and soak in a bleach solution
- Use a toothbrush to scrub and loosen any black mold on the aerator screen and faucet opening
- Rinse thoroughly

Questions? Please call City Link 311 or 336-727-8000.