Key Points about Mold

- If the duct board is wet or moldy or the insulation on sheet metal air ducts gets wet or moldy, they cannot be effectively cleaned and they must be removed and replaced. Treat the new replacement materials and the adjacent dry existing materials (that are porous) with QwikTreat® Porous Duct Sealant with Biocide.

- If the conditions causing the mold growth in the first place are not corrected, mold growth will recur. Treating with biocides, such as QwikTreat® MoldStop™ Hard Surface Disinfectant will kill the mold growth, but the mold will eventually return if the moisture problem is not resolved. It is critical to solve the moisture problem.

- Duct cleaning has never been shown to actually prevent health problems. Furthermore, research studies do not conclusively demonstrate that particle levels in buildings increase because of dirty air ducts or decrease after cleaning. This is because much of the dirt that may accumulate inside air ducts adheres to duct surfaces and does not necessarily enter the living space. It is important to keep in mind that dirty air ducts are only one of many possible sources of particles that are present in buildings. Pollutants enter a structure both from outdoors and indoor activities, such as cooking, cleaning, smoking, or ordinary movement within a building. There is no evidence that a light amount of dust or other particulate matter in air ducts poses any risk to health. Conversely, any mold observed must be removed. For hard surfaces, that means cleaning with QwikTreat® MoldStop™ Hard Surface Disinfectant while for porous surfaces the moldy porous material must be removed--mold on porous surfaces cannot be effectively treated, it must be removed.

- The EPA does not recommend that air ducts be cleaned except on an as-needed basis because of the continuing uncertainty about the benefits of duct cleaning.

- The EPA does recommend fuel burning furnaces, stoves or fireplaces be inspected for proper functioning and serviced before each heating season to protect against carbon monoxide poisoning. Research also suggests that cleaning dirty cooling coils, fans and heat exchangers can improve the efficiency of heating and cooling systems and remove the food sources on which molds and other bacteria rely.

- Do not paint or caulk moldy surfaces; clean and dry surfaces before painting. Paint applied over moldy surfaces is likely to peel.

- Be sure to clean-up the mold contamination, not just kill the mold. Dead mold is still allergenic, and some dead molds are potentially toxic.

- The use of chlorine bleach is not recommended to kill mold. For hard, non-porous surfaces, use QwikTreat® MoldStop™ Hard Surface Disinfectant, and for porous fibrous insulation and fiberboard use QwikTreat® Porous Duct Sealant with Biocide to both protect and seal the replacement materials. Any duct sealant, including QwikTreat® MoldStop™ Duct Sealant, should only be applied after the

area has been properly cleaned and there is no sign of moisture or mold. Chemical biocides can only be used on hard, non-porous surfaces. Never use any of these compounds when immune-compromised individuals are present. Remember, biocides are toxic to humans, as well as to mold. Read and follow label precautions.

- Never mix chlorine bleach solution with any other cleaning solutions or detergents that contain ammonia; toxic fumes could be produced.

- It is not possible to sterilize an area; a background level of mold spores will always remain in the air (roughly equivalent to the level in outside air). These spores will not grow if the moisture problem in the building has been resolved.

- When using fans to dry or ventilate, be careful not to distribute mold spores throughout an unaffected area.

- Fungicides are commonly applied to outdoor plants, soil, and grains as a dust or spray-examples include hexachlorobenzene, organomercurials, pentachlorophenol, phthalimides, and dithiocarbamates. **Do not use fungicides developed for use outdoors for mold remediation or for any other indoor situation. Death could occur without warning!**