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Mold-sniffing Dog Helps Homeowners Pinpoint Problems



Toxic mold has become such a vexing problem that some insurance companies will no longer pay mold claims. Finding and fixing mold infestations can be complicated, but now one company has developed an innovative solution.

That solution is a young Labrador Retriever mix named Sydney. The dog offers a low-tech, but surprisingly effective solution to an alarming problem. Her owner claims Sydney can find mold other inspections miss. It's believed she is the first dog in California certified to detect mold.

Sydney's owners boast her nose can beat any machine. "Machines can test the air, but machines don't tell you where it is," said Russ Colliau of Mold Detectives, Inc.

During a demonstration, Sydney alerted her handler to several places overlooked in earlier inspections. The dog does have one limitation, however. She can't distinguish toxic from harmless mold.

According to Colliau, Europeans have been using dogs to find mold for a number of years.

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