

GERMS CAN LIVE IN DIRT AND DUST.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread
and protect patients



- Germs live in dirt and soil. The fungus *Aspergillus*, a common germ that can live in dirt, can cause serious illness in some patients who don't have strong immune systems or whose lungs are damaged.
- Building construction can send dust into the air, which can carry germs into a healthcare facility.
- Smaller construction and maintenance projects inside a building – like taking out parts of a wall, removing ceiling tiles, or renovating a room – can also create dust that has germs in it.

Germs That Live in Dirt

- *Aspergillus*
- *Cryptococcus*
- *Bacillus* spp.
- Mold



Healthcare Tasks Involving Dirt and Dust

- High dusting
- Receiving supplies
- Construction
- Renovation

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Textile management
- Ventilation
- Construction barriers
- Cleaning and disinfection



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