

# Prevention

Mold and mildew are the results of a surface that is in regular contact with moisture. Village units are especially susceptible as they have private bathrooms and kitchens not regularly serviced by housekeeping staff.

We ask that students living in Village properties work together with the Physical Plant to maintain these independent living units in a clean and healthy manner. See the tips below to deter problems:

## Mold & Mildew Prevention

**To reduce and often eliminate mildew**, increase ventilation as much as possible in the bathroom, by using an exhaust fan (if supplied), and opening doors and windows soon after bathing or showering. Extend shower curtains so they dry thoroughly and leave shower doors ajar so that air can circulate inside the enclosure.

**Something as simple as wiping down walls after showering can serve as an effective preventative treatment.**

For small problem areas, wipe mildewed surfaces with approved cleaning solutions that contain bleach. Be sure to wear rubber gloves.

**CAUTION:** Never mix any combination of bleach, ammonia and commercial cleaners; a toxic gas may result.

## Keeping it Clean

Keeping sinks, bathtubs and showers clean and dry need not be a chore if you know the right steps to follow. Regular cleaning once a week usually wins at least half the battle.

**The best time to clean a tub or shower is right after using it, when steam has loosened the dirt.** Before you exit, wipe off the damp surfaces with a towel.

**For a weekly cleaning**, run the shower on hot for about five minutes beforehand. Then open the shower curtain or tub door to help loosen dirt on other bathroom surfaces. (Be sure to extend the curtain so it can air-dry.)

**Wiping tub and shower surfaces while they are still wet** is important when living in Evansville, where the water contains hard water minerals. Commercial cleaners applied with a sponge or damp cloth will remove most hard-water scale and film. For a home-made scale remover try white vinegar, undiluted or mixed with up to four parts warm water. Let the vinegar soak the area for several minutes. Repeat as necessary.

**To avoid bathtub rings**, don't use oily bath preparations. If a ring does form, wipe it off with undiluted ammonia (wear rubber gloves) or a wet sponge generously sprinkled with baking soda. For stubborn rings wipe with white vinegar or automatic dish washing detergent. Rinse.