



# KCA TOOL BOX TALK: Histoplasmosis

Histoplasmosis is a disease caused by a mold that grows in soil and in material found in bat and bird droppings. Workers can become sick from breathing dust containing mold spores when contaminated matter is disturbed. Workers who are most at risk include bridge painters, demolition workers, heavy equipment operators, roofers, and heating and air-conditioning system installers.

**Signatures**

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## Preventing and Treating Histoplasmosis:

- Avoid areas that may harbor the fungus, such as accumulations of bird or bat droppings.
- Recognize the symptoms including a flu-like feeling, chest pains and a dry cough with no mucus.
- Prevent the accumulation of manure.
- Post health risk warnings.
- Wear a respirator approved for dust.
- Wear gloves during work and wash up afterwards.
- Mist piles of droppings with water before and during cleanup activities to keep the dust down.
- Dispose of waste.

For more information visit OSHA STANDARD 1926.25