

Mold Mysteries

To the Editor:

Regarding the article "A Closer Look at the *Stachybotrys* Scare" (*Notebook*, 12/01), I believe a couple of comments are in order. Jon Vara, rather than presenting a professional, unbiased approach, chose to cast the mold issue as something that is used to scare the general populace, even the comic soap readers, for Pete's sake.

There is too little known by mycologists and health care professionals about mold's relationship with sick people for Jon Vara to claim that he has the answer, to wit: Hokum!

To be fair, Mr. Vara has a 50% chance of being correct. Maybe he feels

those are good enough odds to write such an article, but he's mistaken.

I always find the *JLC* articles interesting, even the ones that I disagree with. Stay the course.

Wayne Richard
via e-mail

Jon Vara responds: I don't think concern about mold is hokum. The article pointed out that mold may be a serious health hazard. It advised builders to take the issue seriously, to build dry, mold-resistant houses, and to develop a plan for dealing with mold problems that may appear. As Wayne Richard observes, relatively little is known about the relationship between mold and illness, and I believe that research in this

We'd Like Your Help

To help *JLC* stay in touch with our readers and thereby serve you better in the years ahead, we are assembling a reader advisory board — a panel of subscribers who are willing to spend one hour three times a year to fill in a survey of no more than a few pages. Topics will include business management, job-site practices, product and material use, and tool preferences. Survey results will be published in *JLC* for the benefit of all readers. We hope members will stick around for at least one year, but no time commitment is required.

Beyond the three surveys, a *JLC* editor may occasionally contact you for additional information in the course of a year, by whatever means is convenient for you (e-mail, post, fax, phone). If you're too busy at the time to respond or don't wish to share your thoughts, no problem. We understand the value of your time and respect your privacy. Finally, the names of the panel readers will be held by the *JLC* editorial department alone and will not be shared with any other group or organization.

If you are a *JLC* subscriber and a professional builder or remodeler and are interested in serving on the *JLC* reader panel — the *JLC* Board — please respond by e-mail to djackson@hanley-wood.com or fax to 802/879-9384. Be sure to include "JLC Board" as part of the message header. Or you may mail to The *JLC* Board, 186 Allen Brook Lane, Williston, VT 05495. Include your name, address, business name (letterhead where possible), and an e-mail address and fax number if available. We look forward to hearing from you.

Don Jackson
JLC Editor

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Letters

area should continue. But I do think that some groups and individuals — including personal injury lawyers, aggrieved homeowners, and maybe even a few cartoonists — are deliberately playing up an unproven health risk for their own gain.

Contract Law Varies by State

To the Editor:

Dave Dahlgren's article "A Simple Time & Materials Contract" (11/01) should have carried a footnote to remind readers that, although Dave's contract may be legal in Florida, it may not be in many states. Maine law, for example, requires additional specific schedule, cost, and warranty information for any home repair or improvement exceeding \$1,400.

Bob Theberge, President
RC Theberge General Contracting, Inc.
Brunswick, Maine

Router Kit

To the Editor:

I very much enjoyed reading your recent article "Buying a Plunge Router" (9/01). The author identified key points of differentiation among the various models; this level of detail is very helpful to the router user in making a tool selection. We are pleased that the Bosch 1613AEVS rated well under the objective guidelines; however, the array of items included with the 1613AEVS needs clarification. The 1613AEVS includes the router, templet guide (bushing) adapter, dust collection hood with hose adapter, and drop-forged wrench. The kit version of this tool, the 1613AEVSK, includes all of those items plus a rugged carrying case. The base adjustment device (RA1150 centering cone) and templet guides (bushings) are optional accessories.

Jim Stevens, Product Manager
Bosch Woodworking Tools

Business Editor Wanted

JLC is seeking a full-time editor to write and edit articles on business issues such as estimating, scheduling, production management, sales, and marketing. Candidates should have proven writing and editing skills plus a working knowledge of the residential construction business. Relocation to Vermont is preferred. Please send résumé and writing sample to JLC Editorial, 186 Allen Brook Lane, Williston, VT 05495.

Universal PEX Fitting

To the Editor:

Since Martin Holladay researched his article "Growing Pains for Potable-Water PEX" (11/01), Stadler-Viega has introduced a new fitting system that works with Stadler-Viega's three types of PEX tubing: Pextron tubing, ideal for radiant heating; FostaPex, PEX-aluminum-PEX tubing, ideal for baseboard connections and plumbing; and Pexcel tubing, ideal for potable-water systems. Stadler-Viega is the only systems manufacturer offering this economy to our customers, where one very secure and easy-to-make hydraulic-style fitting system does it all.

Ann Woodard, Marketing Manager
Stadler-Viega
Bedford, Mass.

KEEP 'EM COMING!

Letters must be signed and include the writer's address. *The Journal of Light Construction* reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, and clarity. Mail letters to JLC, 186 Allen Brook Ln., Williston, VT 05495; or e-mail to jlc-editorial@hanley-wood.com.