

Mildew and Algae

Is the appearance of your home blemished by algae and mildew?

Suggestions for removing algae and mildew from your home:

- ❖ A solution of **ten parts water to one-part common bleach** (*strength of mixture can be increased for removal of heavy growth*). Be sure to wet foundation plantings first, and rinse everything in clean water when done to protect plants from the bleach. Wear gloves and be careful not to come in contact with bleach. Please be aware that high concentrations of bleach may discolor your paint.
- ❖ Wet vacuum the area, wipe or scrub with detergent and water, and after drying, vacuum with a wet/dry vacuum.
- ❖ There are several cleaning products and suggestions for removing these substances from the exterior of the home that can be found and sold at your local home improvement store.
- ❖ Prevention is always best! Periodic cleanings with a power washer containing **WATER ONLY** may help prevent the problem altogether.

What is Algae?

Algae, a plant, is typically green, dark blue, red or orange. This airborne living organism can occur on almost any building material, including wooden siding and brick.

What is Mildew?

Mildew, a fungus, can be identified as a blackish gray stain that appears like dirt, but does not come off with detergent.

Other things to keep in mind:

- ❖ Mildew and algae can grow on painted surfaces because they often contain organic materials that nourish the plant life. Organic material floating in the air falls on the painted surface to become food for mildew and algae.
- ❖ *Painting over algae and mildew is a mistake!* If mildew, dirt, soot, algae and other foreign particles are not removed, your subsequent paint job will prematurely fail.
- ❖ Mildew grows faster on coatings containing linseed oil. Latex paints are more prone to mildew attack though acrylic paint seems to be the most mildew resistant of the latex paints. When repainting, a product containing mildewcides, water repellants and ultra-violet protection provide the best performance.

For more information about Covenants and Standards in The Woodlands, please call 281-210-3800 or visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

