

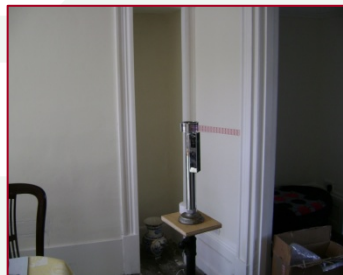
Ecologia was appointed by a local council to undertake a microbial survey following reports of extensive dampness in two rooms of a residential basement flat. Ecologia was required to establish the full extent of the microbial impact, potential health risks to the occupants of the property as well as provide an assessment of applicable remedial options.



Microbial Survey

The objectives of the microbial survey were as follows;

- To determine the source, extent and impact of dampness in the basement and assess potential health risks to occupants of the property.
- To determine whether residual pathogens associated with the observed dampness were still present on surfaces and in the ambient air at concentrations that pose potential risks to human health.
- To evaluate possible remedial options to mitigate risks to the occupants of the property.



The microbial sampling procedure, used by the public health laboratory, was adopted and involved taking swab samples from the surfaces of the walls and floors. Sampling for the presence of air-borne pathogens was undertaken in accordance with procedures outlined by the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the US Department of Labour. A BIOTEST RCS instrument was positioned in the centre of each room.

Findings of the Microbial Survey

The survey concluded that concentrations of *E. coli* on surfaces and in ambient air were below the laboratory detection limit indicating that it was unlikely that pathogenic bacteria were present within the property. High concentrations of moulds from swab samples were detected within the basement flat. Remedial works were recommended to halt the rapid spread of dampness and mould growth within the property.