

Chaetomium sp. (Kee-toe-mee-um)

Found on a variety of substrates including paper, plant compost, dung, seeds, soil, and straw. Several species have been reported to play a major role in decomposition of cellulose-made materials such as paper, sheetrock, and wallpaper. Primary IAQ importance is currently related to the fact that it will grow in the same conditions as *Stachybotrys* (wet cellulose) and amplified amounts in indoor air could be a warning that conditions exist for *Stachybotrys* growth. Many times on damp sheetrock paper, colonies of *Chaetomium* and *Stachybotrys* will be growing on top of one another or side by side. *Chaetomium* is considered to cause Type I allergies (i.e. asthma, hay fever). It is an opportunistic pathogen and has been associated with peritonitis, cutaneous lesions, and onychomycosis.