



# Northshore Utility District

## ADDRESS

6830 NE 185th Street  
Kenmore WA 98028-2684  
PO Box 82489  
Kenmore WA 98028-0489

## TELEPHONES

Engineering: (425) 398-4401  
Administration: (425) 398-4402  
Operations: (425) 398-4403  
Information: (425) 398-4400

## FAX NUMBERS

Administration: (425) 398-4430  
Operations: (425) 398-4432  
Purchasing: (425) 398-4434  
Website: [www.nud.net](http://www.nud.net)

## What is that black “stuff” in my toilet, shower or pet’s dish?

Each year, a few Northshore Utility District customers call to ask about a black slimy substance that occasionally forms in moist areas around their home. Customers most frequently observe it in toilet bowls, on the surfaces in shower stalls and bathtub enclosures, in sinks and pet water dishes.

A black fungus or mold is thought to be the cause of the black stuff. The fungus or mold is common inhabitants of our environment. They can be found in many places, including human and animal feces, dust soil, and surface water. The fungus or mold will grow in any moist location where phosphorous containing materials or fatty substances accumulate. Sources of these substances include soap residue in bathing areas, feces in toilets, soap and food residues in pet dishes. The fungus or mold can also grow in locations such as toilets. The chlorine residual will dissipate from the toilet where water is left standing for an extended period of time. The black fungus or mold is not known to cause any waterborne diseases.

Once the fungus or mold is established, it cannot be eliminated entirely. However, periodic and thorough cleaning of the surfaces followed by disinfection with chlorine bleach can control the fungus or mold. Scrub the surfaces with a brush and household cleaner. Disinfect the surfaces with a strong chlorine bleach solution, let stand for 10-20 minutes and thoroughly rinse away with clean water.

To control the growth in the toilet, thoroughly clean the toilet bowl with a brush and a toilet bowl cleaner. Disinfect the toilet bowl rim with a chlorine solution. You may also add a ¼ cup of chlorine bleach to the toilet tank. Let the solution stand for 10-20 minutes. Flush the toilet a couple of times to rinse the disinfectant out of the toilet tank and the toilet bowl.

If you have any questions regarding this mold, please contact Mick Holte our Water Quality Coordinator at (425) 398-4417.