Germs can live in dirt.

Where is the risk?
Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

- Germs live in dirt and soil. The fungus Aspergillus, a common germ that can live in dirt, can cause serious illness in some patients who don’t have strong immune systems or whose lungs are damaged.
- Building construction can send dirt and the germs in it into the air, which can then get inside a healthcare facility.
- Smaller construction and maintenance projects inside a building – like taking out parts of a wall, removing ceiling tiles, or renovating a room – can also create dust that has germs in it.

Germs that live in dirt
- Aspergillus
- Cryptococcus

Healthcare tasks involving dirt
- Construction
- Renovation

Infection control actions to reduce risk
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Ventilation
- Using barriers and other types of construction containment
- Hand hygiene

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