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 dust into the air, which can carry germs into 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*
- *Bacillus* spp.
- Mold

**Healthcare Tasks Involving Dirt and Dust**
- High dusting
- Receiving supplies
- Construction
- Renovation

**Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk**
- Textile management
- Ventilation
- Construction barriers
- Cleaning and disinfection

WHERE IS THE RISK?
Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

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