What is that slimy black substance on my faucet?

The presence of a black jellylike substance in moist areas of the kitchen or bathroom is likely a fungus called *Aspergillus niger* that occurs naturally in our environment and travels through the air. Given the right growing conditions, *Aspergillus niger* will colonize and produce black stains on surfaces.

**Typical Source**

If water stands long enough it can lose its residual chlorine disinfectant. Constantly damp surfaces are also a prime growth site for black mold. It can commonly be found in the following locations:

- Kitchen and bath faucets (aerators)
- Dishwashers
- Washing machines
- Toilet tanks and bowls
- Showerheads
- Bathroom tile
- Shower curtains
- Drains

Kitchens and bathrooms are the most common sites for black mold because these areas tend to have a warm and humid atmosphere. These locations also provide the fungus with a source of organic nutrition from shampoo, soap, conditioner, hairspray, liquid dish detergent and food particles.

**Cleaning Recommendations**

Once established, black mold usually cannot be eliminated entirely. To help reduce growth, treat areas with a spray product that contains bleach or another disinfectant. Improving ventilation in the affected area may also help reduce growth.

To clean your bathtub faucet:

- Scrub the inside with a toothbrush
- Spray the inside with a disinfectant that contains bleach
- Rinse thoroughly

To clean your sink faucet and aerator:

- Remove the aerator and soak in a bleach solution
- Use a toothbrush to scrub and loosen any black mold on the aerator screen and faucet opening
- Rinse thoroughly

**Questions?** Please call City Link 311 or 336-727-8000.