

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

