

The Contamination Case File

A microbial investigation for cultivators & manufacturers who are tired of guessing.

“Total yeast and mold” (TYM) isn’t one organism. Neither is “bile-tolerant gram-negative bacteria” (BTGN). These are categories covering hundreds of thousands of microbial species. Your failure is probably one or two specific culprits, and they left evidence. Bleaching and ozonating everything in your facility won’t fix the problem, and neither will remediation. This investigation finds the source.

THE INVESTIGATION: 6 HOURS FROM WALKTHROUGH TO CASE REPORT

1 The Crime Scene

Walk the full process room by room — moms, veg, flower, dry, cure, trim, package — plus raw materials, inputs, and beneficials, to map every point microbes could enter.

3 The Evidence

Get isolates sent out for sequencing so you know exactly what species are on the product — not just a vague TYM or BTGN CFU count, or “TNTC.”

5 The Debrief

Walk through your finished case report together and align on next steps.

2 The Suspects

Review your COA failures to narrow the likely group of microorganisms responsible, and flag where in your process they’re most likely entering.

4 Motive & Means

Trace the organism back against your facility walkthrough and process to identify the most probable transmission path.

The Case Report: a written 1–2 page summary naming the top suspect organism(s), the likely entry point, and a prioritized action list — what monitoring to set up, what to sample and how often, and what root cause to fix. It also tells you what not to waste money on.

WHY ROOT CAUSE, NOT REMEDIATION

- Remediation tolling runs \$50–100/lb and recurs every time you fail again.
- Remediation devices cost thousands to rent and hundreds of thousands to buy — and they don’t stop the source.
- Some states now require labeling of remediated product, and consumers are wary of it.
- A traced and addressed source protects the plant, the product, and the people around it.
- Building safety into your process means a safer product for consumers and a safer workplace for your team.

INVESTMENT

THE FULL INVESTIGATION

\$1,500

6 hours total · facility & lab coordination · sequencing setup · live debrief · written case report

Third-party lab testing and sequencing fees are billed to the client at cost.

Companion essay: intrepidscientific.com/total-yeast-and-mold