



Slime mold care cheat sheet

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Stick it on the fridge or in your journal

First, three questions

1. **What has the temperature been for the last 48 hours?** Below 15 °C or above 30 °C explains everything.
2. **Is the substrate dry, damp or soaked?** A puddle is too much. Paper that crackles is too little.
3. **Are there flakes older than 48 hours in the dish?** That is the number one cause of mold.

The right routine

- Two or three oat flakes, 1 cm from the slime mold, never on top.
- Flakes it has fed on come out after 24 to 48 hours.
- Move it onto fresh paper every 5 to 7 days, before trouble starts.
- Always in the dark, between 22 and 25 °C.

If you see this, do that

What I see	Most likely cause	What to do
Not moving but bright yellow	Too cold, or full	Bring it back to 22-25 °C, remove eaten flakes, wait 24 hours
Pale and shrinking back	It is hungry	Feed it 1 cm away. It will set off again within hours
Turning brown and hard	Starting to form a sclerotium	Gently moisten the paper again
White or green fuzz	Mold on a flake	Move a healthy piece onto fresh paper, without trying to clean the dish
Climbing the walls	Hungry, or wrong substrate	Feed it more and check the moisture
Breaking up into dots	Substrate soaked	Move it onto paper that has been wrung out
Bad smell	Bacteria	Move a piece out straight away; the dish is lost
It has vanished	Hiding under the paper	Lift the paper before you decide anything
Black, runny and smelly	It is dead	Wake up a spare sclerotium

Before you go away

Time away	Method	What to do
2 to 3 days	Nothing special	Feed it the day before, moisten, close the lid
4 to 10 days	Fridge	Closed dish in the vegetable drawer, at about 8 to 10 °C, with one or two fresh flakes. When you are back, one hour at room temperature before feeding
More than 10 days	Sclerotium	3 days before: stop feeding. 2 days before: clean paper. The day before: lid open a crack. The day you leave: lid off, and it dries in 24 to 48 hours
Several months	Dry sclerotium	Once hard and brittle, in a paper envelope, in the dark

Never: the freezer, which kills it · fast drying, which stops it forming a sclerotium · closed plastic for a sclerotium, which goes moldy · flakes left in while it dries. **Always:** two or three spare sclerotia, made from different pieces.