

# Keeping your home free from condensation, damp and mould

## Condensation

This can be caused in many ways, such as cooking, drying your clothes indoors and showering. If you do not frequently open your windows to ventilate your home, this will cause condensation and if left untreated, mould.

Here are some useful tips on reducing condensation and ventilating your home:

- Put lids on saucepans whilst cooking and do not leave kettles boiling on the cooker.
- Open windows throughout the day.
- Turn extractor fans on in the kitchen and bathroom when in use.
- Close the kitchen or bathroom door when in use.
- Dry clothes outside.
- If you use a tumble dryer, make sure it is vented to the outside.
- Do not run your shower or bath for longer than you need to. Put a small amount of cold water in the bath before you turn on the hot tap.
- Clean any condensation on a daily basis.
- Keep furniture away from walls to allow air to circulate.
- Avoid putting too many items in wardrobes as this stops air circulating.
- Keep vents on your windows open.

## Tips on heating your home

- In cold weather, a low level of heat all day will reduce the risk of condensation, mould and may also reduce your heating bills.
- Do not use bottled gas or paraffin heaters, these can create moisture in homes.

Insulation and draught-proofing can help to keep your home warm, prevent condensation and reduce fuel bills.

We will ensure that your home has adequate levels of roof insulation and cavity wall insulation. For homes with solid walls, external walls will be insulated.

## Damp and mould

Damp can be caused by any of the following:

- Leaking pipes, wastes or overflows.
- Rain coming through leaking roofs and window frames or an overflow over a blocked gutter.

It is always important to check your drains and gutters are not blocked.

If your home is newly built, it may be damp due to the water used during construction is still drying out.



## How to remove mould

By following these hints and tips, mould should not reappear. The only way to avoid mould is to reduce humidity and condensation by properly heating and ventilating your home.

- 1 Wipe the affected area with water and a cloth. Do not use bleach or washing up liquid.
- 2 Use a mould remover and treatment. Ensure you follow the manufacturers instructions and it is a recognised brand. You can buy mould removal products from most DIY stores.
- 3 Wash or dry clean clothes or fabrics affected by mould. Carpets should be shampooed. Removal of mould by brushing or vacuuming can increase the risk of respiratory problems.

## Supporting you

Contact us if you need further advice or if you think your home is damp.

We can work with you to identify what will help. We may visit you, carry out any repairs needed or ask you to repeat the steps above.

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