

CONTROLLING CONDENSATION AND MOULD

WHAT IS CONDENSATION?

Condensation forms when warm, moist air comes into contact with cold surfaces such as windows, floors or walls.

Condensation occurs mostly when it is cold outside and can damage wall and floor coverings, clothes and bedding, for example.

Black mould can grow on damp areas affected by condensation.

Moisture from kitchens and bathrooms causes condensation - this can affect colder parts of your home too.

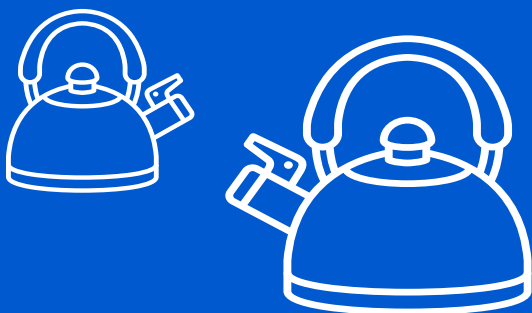
Common causes include too much moisture being produced in your home, not enough ventilation and the temperature not being kept consistent.

Condensation can be reduced by increasing ventilation and reducing the amount of moisture in the air.



DID YOU KNOW?...

Cooking and using a kettle produces **three litres** of moisture per day.



Drying clothes indoors produces **5.5 litres** of moisture per day.



Having a bath or shower produces **one litre** of moisture in the air.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS ADVICE TO HELP STOP CONDENSATION:

- Dry laundry outside or in a well ventilated room - such as a bathroom with the window open.
- Ensure tumble dryer filters are kept clean and the room it's in is ventilated.
- Cover pans and switch off kettles as soon as they have boiled to minimise steam.
- Close doors to prevent moisture escaping when cooking or bathing.
- Maintain low-level heating in rooms likely to be unoccupied for long periods of time.
- Do not use portable gas heaters as they produce very high levels of condensation and are contrary to your Conditions of Tenancy.
- Do not block air vents.
- Use extractor fans, where provided, when cooking and bathing.
- Wipe condensation from windows daily.
- When having a bath, run cold water first then add the hot water to reduce condensation by up to 90%.
- Ventilate rooms daily or use your window vents for longer periods.
- Keep furniture away from external walls to prevent dampness.

MOULD NEEDS TO BE REMOVED AND TREATED CAREFULLY TO PREVENT IT FROM RETURNING:

- Surfaces affected by mould need to be treated with a fungicidal wash that has a Health & Safety Executive (HSE) approval number - instructions for its safe use should be followed. Fungicidal washes are available in most supermarkets or D.I.Y. stores.
- Surfaces should then be wiped down with a clean cloth.
- Mildewed clothing should be dry-cleaned and carpets should be cleaned using a specialist shampoo. Mould should not be removed with a brush or vacuum as this might make mould spread.
- After treating mould, the area will need to be redecorated using a good quality fungicidal paint and a fungicidal wall paper paste to help prevent mould recurring.

Please note:

- The effect of fungicidal or anti-condensation paint is destroyed if covered with ordinary paint or wallpaper.
- The only lasting cure for severe mould is to prevent moisture.
- Damp and mould should be reported to the council.