

How to help manage condensation and mould

Mould can grow almost anywhere in a home when moisture in the air hits a cold surface and condenses into water droplets. If these droplets sit on a surface for long enough, mould begins to grow. Mould is unpleasant and if it's not removed can affect your health.

This leaflet is intended to help in situations where condensation and mould is happening in your home.

Heating and ventilation

Mould often grows when the following three things happen together:

1. Lots of moisture in the air (humidity) created by things like showers, baths and drying washing.
2. Not having the heating on high enough (about 21c) or for long enough.
3. Not having enough ventilation to allow the moisture out.

If either of the second or third points is fixed, it can help or even cure the problem completely.

Things you can try

1. Make sure your extractor fans in the bathroom and kitchen are clean (dust and Hoover it) and working. Report them to us if they're not.
2. If your windows have vents on them, leave them open.
3. Open the window a little while showering, bathing or cooking.
4. Close the kitchen door while cooking. Close the bathroom door during and after showering or bathing. This will stop moisture travelling into the rest of the home and settling on cold surfaces.
5. Leave the window open a little and your extractor fan on for at least 15 minutes after you've finished showering, bathing or cooking.
6. Make sure the radiator is on in the room with mould.
7. Use a squeegee or towel to wipe any water droplets on walls and windows because mould forms where there's water droplets.
8. Dry clothes in the bathroom with the door closed, the window open a little and the extractor fan on.

Did you know?

- If you run cold water into a bath before adding hot, you reduce the amount of humidity produced by 90%.
- Having a bath or shower produces about 2 litres of water vapour but drying a washing machine load of washing produces 9 litres.

Mould elsewhere in the home

Mould will form in places where there isn't a lot of heat or a lot of ventilation. For example, in cupboards, behind furniture, bedrooms and outhouses.

- Leave the trickle vent for that window permanently open. It won't let cold air in, but it will let moisture out which is crucial.
- If there's a source of moisture in the room such as drying washing or people sleeping, then leave the windows open a little during and after the moisture is being created.
- Leave a small gap between furniture and walls to allow air to flow through.
- Try not to block radiators or heaters with furniture so the warm air can flow around the room.

Report repairs

Faulty extractor fans, window openings and heating should be reported to us as soon as possible.

We treat reports of condensation, damp and mould seriously so please let us know if you are experiencing these issues.

You can do this through your online account at www.settlegroup.org.uk or email us on customer.service@settlegroup.org.uk or call us on 0330 343 0016

