



Preventing condensation and mould in your home

This leaflet has advice and tips on how to keep your home free from condensation and mould.

It is important that you try to prevent condensation forming in your home to avoid damage to your property and to you and your family's health.

What is condensation?

There's always some moisture in the air, even if you can't see it. Everyday things like cooking, washing, drying clothes and bathing release moisture into the air.

When excess moisture settles on a cold surface, such as a wall or window, or in places where there is little air movement, such as behind furniture, it appears wet and is called 'condensation'.

If condensation occurs on the same surface for long periods of time, it becomes damp and mould will grow. Mould can damage internal walls, carpets and even clothes in wardrobes.

How to prevent condensation

Mould and damp caused by condensation can be avoided by making small lifestyle changes to ensure adequate heat and ventilation throughout your home.

Step 1 Produce less moisture

When using the bath or shower keep the bathroom door shut with the extractor fan running.

Keep the kitchen door shut when cooking. Use the extractor fan and cover pans with lids.

Dry washing outside, or in the bathroom with the door closed and the extractor fan running. Don't dry clothes on radiators in other rooms.

Vent tumble driers to the outside of your home, or use a self-condensing drier.

Do not use paraffin heaters or portable bottle gas heaters.

Wipe up condensation whenever and wherever it forms to stop it collecting on sills or running down walls.

Step 2 Increase ventilation

Keep trickle vents (the small vents built into some windows) open or leave a small window ajar if safe to do so. A low level of ventilation in bedrooms at night is particularly effective.

Use extractor fans when cooking or bathing. Extractor fans currently being fitted by Victory are designed to run continuously at a cost of less than 10p per week.

Do not block air vents.

Leave space between furniture and the wall to allow air movement. If possible, position furniture away from outside walls.

Step 3 Regulate your heating

If possible, maintain a low level of background heating at all times in all rooms during the winter. Condensation is more likely to form in unheated rooms.

Draw curtains at dusk to keep the heat in.

Treating mould

If your property has condensation it is possible that mould could grow. Mould can appear in a variety of forms but it usually develops as small black spots and can grow on walls and ceilings.

You can remove mould in the following ways:

- Wipe down walls and window frames with a fungicidal wash, following the manufacturer's instructions closely and remove mould affected wallpaper
- Dry clean clothes affected by mildew and shampoo carpets

Once the mould has been removed, redecorate using a good quality fungicidal or anti-mould paint, don't use ordinary paint. If you do use wallpaper, use a paste containing fungicide to help prevent further mould growth.

The only lasting cure for mould is to get rid of condensation.

Contact Victory

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*We record all phone calls that we make and receive, for quality and training purposes.