

Managing Mould & Condensation

A guide for
tenants

Your Guide to Damp and Mould



Damp and mould in the home can be a health hazard which causes respiratory problems and exacerbates allergies.

Making sure your home is free of mould and damp is not only important for your health, but it is also your responsibility as a tenant.

Preventing damp and mould is much easier than you might think.

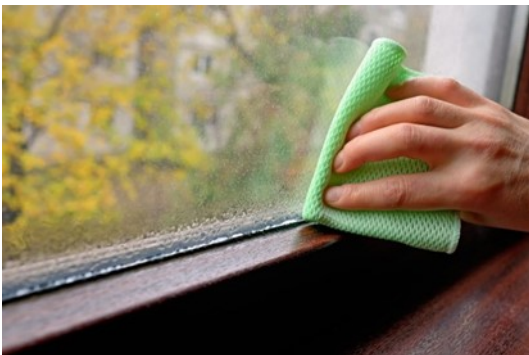
This short guide explains how some everyday habits contribute to damp indoors and offers some advice to minimise and deal with small damp and mould issues.

How to Prevent Damp and Mould



Air your home regularly

Open windows regularly to make sure your home is well-ventilated. Even when it's cold, moisture can gather in the property. Opening the window allows some of this moisture to escape. Leave window vents open at all times to allow good circulation.



Wipe away condensation

Cleaning the condensation from windows and frames every day will minimise the spread of black mould.

You can use a rag or towel to wipe away condensation. Leave window vents open at all times to allow good circulation.



Keep doors closed

Keep bathroom and kitchen doors closed when having a shower or bath, or when cooking. This will prevent moisture from spreading to other parts of your home.



Turn your heating on

Running your heating can avoid cold spots, dry out damp, and reduce your chances of getting mould.



Keep an eye out for leaks

Leaky window frames, pipework, walls and doors are common sources of moisture. If you see a leak, you should report it to us as soon as possible so we can deal with the problem. This will also stop the issue from turning into a more serious problem and cause further damage to the property. In the meantime, use a bucket or bowl to collect any drips and make sure to keep surfaces dry with a mop or towel.



Dry clothes in a ventilated room

Don't dry clothes on radiators. The vapour turns into moisture in the air and is then circulated around the room. This moisture gathers on walls, windows and other fabrics in the home and can increase the risk of mould developing.

Instead, dry clothes on a clothes airer in a well-ventilated room.

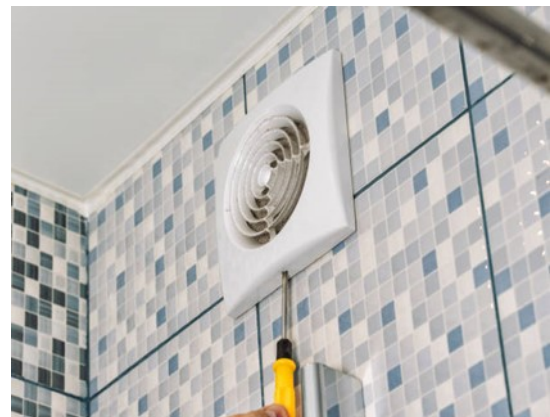
Open a window or use a dehumidifier to minimise the spread of moisture indoors.



Dehumidifiers and damp traps

Using a dehumidifier is a great way to take the moisture out of the air, especially if you dry your clothes indoors. You can buy an inexpensive one from a local hardware store or online.

Disposable damp traps can be cheaper, but over time, you might find it more economical (and environmentally friendly!) to use an electric dehumidifier.



Use extractor fans

If you have an extractor fan in the bathroom, always make sure it is running when you're having a shower or bath. If you have an extractor fan in the kitchen, you should also use it to disperse moisture and cooking smells.

If you don't have an extractor fan, open a window when you cook to allow the moisture to escape.



Grow moisture absorbing plants

Some plants can absorb moisture and pollution from the air and are effective at preventing damp.

Peace lilies, tillandsia, palms and ferns are all moisture absorbers – some ferns actually thrive in damper rooms such as kitchens and bathrooms - just make sure you keep them out of direct sunlight!



Don't overfill your home

Avoid pushing furniture against the wall, or overfilling wardrobes as this can cause damp and mould to grow and spread.

Check behind furniture regularly for signs of damp or mould developing.

Removing Mould

Mould is very easy to remove from non-porous surfaces like tiles, glass, plastics, including UPVC windows and porcelain, like sinks, shower trays and toilets.

All you need is a mould removing spray, available from most supermarkets, and some disposable cloths, like kitchen towel. You just need to spray, wipe and then bin the cloth.

It is more difficult to remove from porous surfaces like wallpaper, walls and ceilings. You may have to do it several times to see an effect.



If you have mould in your property on large area or on a porous surface, please contact us for further advice or to arrange an inspection by a member of the Property Services Team.