



HOW TO KEEP YOUR HOME FREE FROM DAMP MOULD AND CONDENSATION

Is your home damp?

Damp can cause mould to form on walls, furniture and clothes and may also cause window frames to rot.

Some damp problems are caused by condensation. If you can control condensation then you can reduce the risk of damp and mould growth.

What is condensation?

There is always some moisture in the air even if you can't see it. This moisture is most visible when you see your breath on a cold day or when mirrors or windows steam up when you have a hot bath or shower.

Where moisture comes into contact with a cold surface it can form water droplets which are known as condensation (the water on your mirrors/window in the bathroom but it can also form on other surfaces such as walls, floors, furniture etc.)

Condensation occurs mainly during cold weather, whether it is raining or dry. It occurs on cold surfaces where there is little air movement, such as in corners, behind wardrobes and cupboards and on or near windows.

Produce less moisture

Some daily activities create lots of moisture very quickly:

- Dry washing outdoors on a line or put it in the bathroom with the door closed and the window open or the fan on. If you have to use radiators, open as many windows as possible.
- Ensure any tumble dryer is vented to the outside of your property (unless it is a self- condensing dryer).
- Cover pans and do not leave kettles boiling.
- Do not use paraffin heaters or portable flueless bottled gas heaters – these types of heater put vast amounts of moisture in the air.

Ventilate your home

You can ventilate your home without creating draughts- this enables the moisture in the air to escape.

- Keep your windows slightly ajar (when you are in the house). Some types of window have a double latch that enables them to be locked in a slightly open position. Keep trickle vents open (these are built into most double glazed windows).
- Ventilate the kitchen and bathroom when in use by opening the window wide or using a fan, preferable one which switches on automatically when it senses moisture in the air (a humidistat-controlled fan).
- Close the kitchen and bathroom doors when these rooms are in use. This helps prevent any moisture from reaching other rooms, especially bedrooms which are often colder and more likely to be affected by condensation.
- Provide ventilation to cupboards and wardrobes by cutting 'breather holes' in the back of the units and don't overfill them as this will stop air circulating, if possible position units against internal walls.
- Ensure replacement windows are fitted with trickle vents and can be locked in a slightly open position.

Insulate & draught proof

This keeps your home warmer and will cut fuel bills. When your home is warmer condensation is less likely. Ensure cavity walls are insulated to the recommended standard, draught proof windows and doors. Consider secondary double glazing to reduce heat loss and draughts.

Heat your home a little more

In cold weather, the best way to keep rooms warm enough to avoid condensation is to keep low background heating on all day. Fit thermostats to each radiator in your house to allow for individual settings. Avoid using paraffin or portable flueless bottled gas heaters.

STAY WARM, STAY WELL THIS WINTER