

Combating condensation

Top tips to help you combat condensation and reduce damp and mould at home



Combating condensation at home

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During the colder months you may see more condensation around your home, and this can sometimes lead to patches of mould on your walls, furnishings and clothes. The tips in this leaflet will help you to reduce condensation and make your home a happier and healthier place to be.



Why do you get condensation?

Condensation is the result of increased moisture levels in the air, often due to everyday tasks like taking showers and baths, boiling kettles or cooking on the hob. Air can only hold a certain amount of water vapour, and if it's cooled by contact with a cold surface such as a mirror, window or even a wall, it will turn into droplets of condensation.



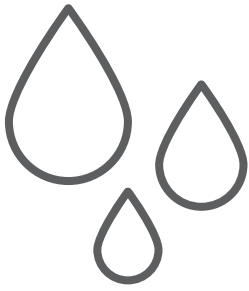
How do you know if it's condensation?

Condensation is often found in places where there is little air movement, such as corners, cupboards and under work surfaces. If you're unsure what's causing damp in your home, start by checking pipes and under sinks to see if there are any obvious leaks. It's not always easy to tell, but other kinds of damp, such as rain or plumbing leaks, will usually leave a tide mark.

If you live in a new or recently modernised house or flat, don't forget that it may not have dried out since the building work, which can take up to 18 months.

When does it become a problem?

Most homes will get condensation every now and again, and it's quite normal to find your bedroom windows misted in the morning after a cold night. However, if your home never seems to be condensation free and you notice damp and mould growing, you may need to make a few changes to your everyday routine.



Top tips for combatting condensation

There are a few things you should keep in mind as the weather gets colder, to ensure that you're doing all you can to prevent damp and mould in your home.

1. Keep doors closed

Always keep kitchen and bathroom doors shut, especially when cooking, washing and bathing. This will prevent water vapour spreading to other rooms in the house and stop condensation from reaching other areas.

2. Dry clothes outside

Avoid drying clothes inside, especially on radiators, as this will increase condensation around your home. The best place to dry clothes is outdoors, but if this isn't possible, make sure you open a window so that the room is properly ventilated. You can also use a dehumidifier if you find condensation is becoming a real problem.

3. Keep your home ventilated

The best way to limit condensation is to increase the airflow around your home. Try to keep windows and trickle vents open as often as possible to increase air circulation. Avoid putting too many things in cupboards and leave around two inches of space between furniture and external walls so that air can flow freely.

4. Cover pots and pans

Try to use lids when cooking and don't let kettles and pans boil for any longer than you need, to reduce the amount of moisture in the air. Always use an extractor fan and open windows or trickle vents until you have finished cooking.

5. Wipe windows and walls regularly

Droplets on your window will become more common as we enter the autumn and winter seasons. Remove the condensation as you see it, as this will stop any mould from building up. You can use kitchen towel or a squeegee to wipe your windows and windowsills regularly.

What to do if you spot mould in your home

If you spot patches of mould on your walls or ceiling, you can remove it yourself by using specialist cleaning products that are available from most supermarkets. Always follow the manufactures instructions carefully when using these products.



We're here to help

If you continue to have problems with damp or mould and nothing seems to be working, please get in touch with us and we'll see what we can do to help



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