



Warrington
Housing Association

Your Healthy Home Guide

Dealing with Damp, Mould and Condensation



Please let us know at once if you have wet or damp patches on walls or ceiling. We can offer advice and arrange an inspection, if needed.

Here's how you can get in touch:



www.wha.org.uk



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WARRINGTON HOUSING
ASSOCIATION LIMITED



/WHAorguk



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Out Of Hours Number

As always, if you have an emergency out of hours, our calls will be managed by Orbis.

The emergency telephone number is 0151 343 4223

Call costs from mobiles may be higher due to your network operator cost.



What is Condensation

There is always some moisture in the air, even if you cannot see it. Moisture can appear as droplets of water, most noticeable on windows on a cold morning. This is condensation. It can also be seen on mirrors when you have a bath or shower, and on cold surfaces such as tiles or cold walls. Look for condensation in your home. It can appear on or near windows, in corners and in or behind wardrobes and cupboards. Condensation forms on cold surfaces and places where there is little movement of air.



What is Mould

Mould and damp are caused by excess moisture. This moisture can be caused by leaking pipes, rising damp or rain seeping in because of damage to the roof or around window frames. Often drying laundry on a clothes horse can produce excess moisture. If you have mould or damp it's important to find out why you have excess moisture in your home. There are ways to manage the moisture produced by everyday living. There could also be maintenance issues that need addressing.

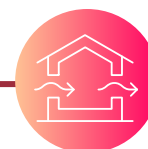
Condensation is the root cause of mould

You can prevent condensation in your home by:

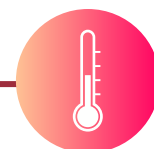
- Keeping your home well ventilated
- Keeping your home on a constant temperature
- Reducing the moisture you produce



**Reduce
Moisture Levels**



**Improve
Ventilation**



**Maintain a
Constant
Temperature**

How to clean condensation and mould

If condensation is left untreated, it will attract mould, which is usually accompanied by a musty smell. Mould will start as blackish specks which spread into patches. In extreme cases the mould can spread to wardrobes and cupboards, attacking clothes, books and soft toys.

Follow the advice to reduce condensation and any risk of mould.

How to kill and remove mould from surfaces:

- Carefully remove excess mould with a damp cloth and either throw away or clean the cloth afterwards. Do not use a brush or vacuum cleaner as this releases the spores into the air.
- Sterilise the affected surfaces thoroughly with fungicidal wash (available from most DIY stores). Follow the manufacturer's safety instructions carefully and always wear safety glasses.
- Keep checking the affected area for at least a week. If the mould reappears, wash it down again with the fungicidal wash to make sure the area is thoroughly sterilised.
- If the treatment appears to have been successful, you can redecorate using a good quality fungicidal paint to help prevent mould, but remember that this will not be effective if it is later covered by ordinary paint or wallpaper.
- If wallpapering, use a paste containing a fungicide to prevent further mould growth.
- Tea Tree oil is a natural antiseptic and disinfectant, it's also great for cleaning mould. Dilute three to four drops of TEa Tree oil in two litres of water (hot or cold). Soak affected items in the solution or spray on to trouble spots using a sprayer, wipe, then rinse off. Always ensure you carry out a test on a small area of the fabric /material/surface beforehand.
- Thoroughly clean or dry clean any affected clothes and shampoo carpets

Cooking and Washing

- Take shorter showers and switch the extractor fan on.
- Close all doors when cooking, showering or taking a bath.
- Open windows when cooking, showering or taking a bath, if possible.
- Place lids on pots and pans when cooking, this will speed up boiling time and reduce moisture escaping.

Heating

- In cold weather, the best way to keep rooms warm and avoid condensation is to keep a low constant heat, rather than short bursts of high heat.
- Even in rooms that are not in use, keep radiators on low.



Windows

- Open curtains and blinds during the day.
- Make sure windows vents are left open.
- Wipe down any moisture on windows to prevent mould growth.



Ventilation

- Opening windows will remove moisture from the air. Open windows for five minutes a couple of times a day.
- Keep furniture away from external walls.
- Avoid filling cupboards with too many items.
- Use extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms at all times.
- Dehumidifiers reduce moisture in the air, but can increase energy bills.



Drying Clothes

- Where possible, always dry clothes outside. Otherwise, use an airer in a well-heated and ventilated room and keep doors closed.
- Do not be tempted to put damp clothes on radiators or leave them to dry in bedrooms.
- If you have a tumble dryer, ensure this is vented externally.



Bathrooms

- After use, leave the door closed with the fan on and window open for at least an hour, if possible.
- Keep bathroom radiators on.
- Wipe down the shower screen, tiles and mirror each after use.