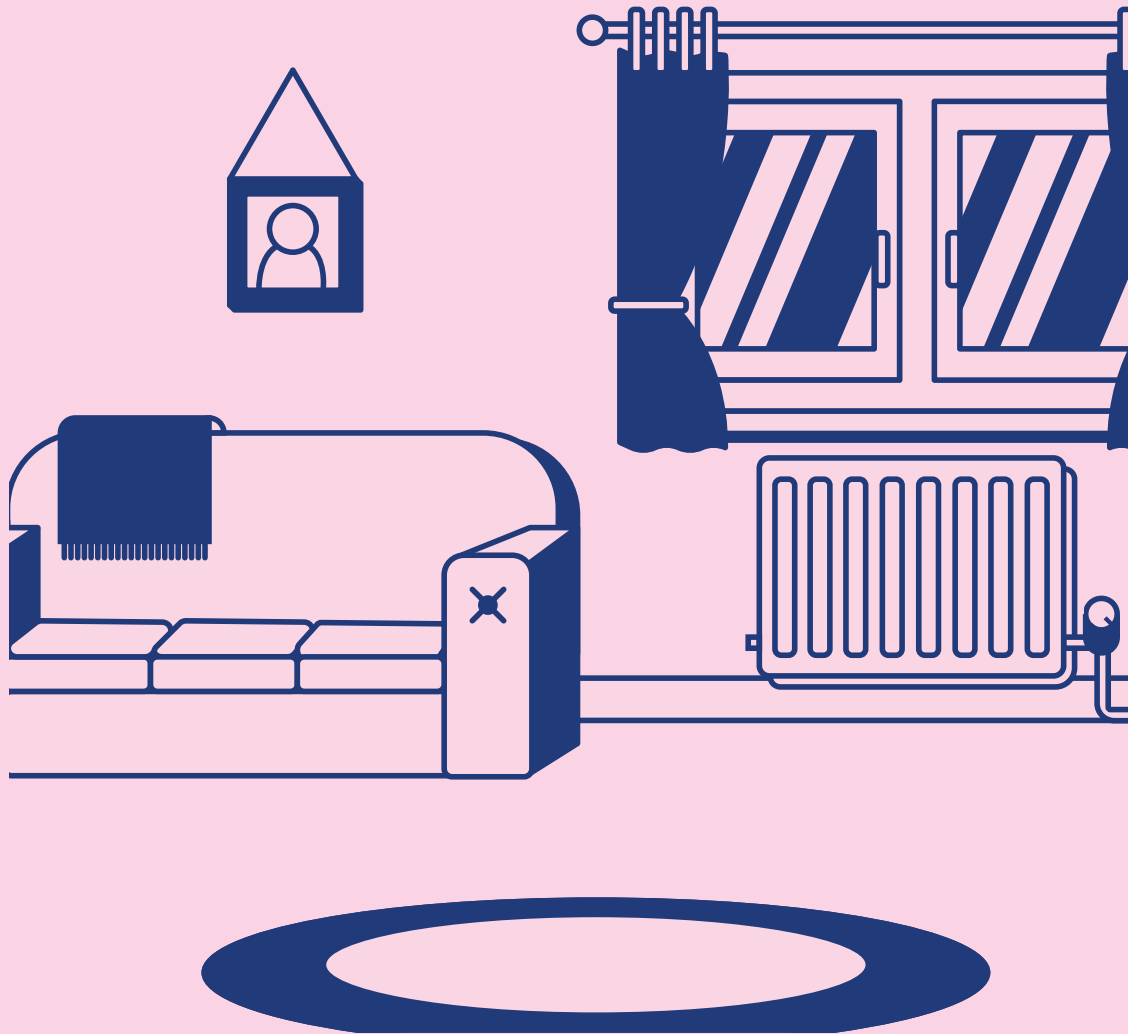


The Healthy Home Handbook

A Resident's Guide to Condensation



Introduction

All homes are at risk of condensation, particularly through the winter months. Excess condensation in your home can lead to problems such as mould growth, which can affect your health and the health of your home. Small amounts of condensation are not usually a problem, and there are some everyday things we can all do to help prevent it. That's why we have worked with Energy Saving Trust to create this handbook to share some practical advice to help you manage condensation and maintain a healthy home. We'll also share information on the different types of damp so that you can identify any potential concerns and how to let us know if there is a problem.

As your landlord, it's our responsibility to provide you with a safe and healthy home. If you spot any damp or mould in your home or following these tips does not help reduce excess condensation, let us know straight away.

We will arrange an inspection to identify the cause of any issues you are experiencing and work together to ensure any risks, hazards or problems are resolved as a priority.

If you have any questions about this handbook or would like further advice about keeping a healthy and safe home, get in touch with us so that we can support you.



What is condensation?

Condensation happens when we also tend to keep our excess moisture in the air meets windows and doors shut more a cold surface and turns into in winter, meaning there is less water droplets. Everyday things ventilation to allow moist air like cooking, cleaning, showering, to escape. Small amounts of bathing and breathing produce condensation, like the steam excess moisture in our homes. from a shower condensing on a Condensation is more likely to bathroom mirror, aren't usually occur in winter; this is because a concern if it's kept on top of. surfaces like windows and walls If you spot condensation on a are colder and there is more surface, wipe it down with a dry, moist, warm air inside our homes. clean cloth or kitchen towel.

If you are concerned about excess condensation in your home, contact us on 01925 246810

Healthy Home Top Tip

If you spot condensation on a surface, wipe it down with a dry, clean cloth or towel.



What is damp?

Condensation is a type of damp that is caused by excess moisture inside the home, but there are other types of damp too, such as rising damp, penetrating damp and damp caused by plumbing faults. It's important to know how to spot these types of damp so that you can let us know if you have a problem and we can take action.

If you think you have rising damp, penetrating damp or a plumbing fault, contact us straight away on 01204 321000 so that we can arrange an inspection and take action to fix the problem.

Penetrating damp

Penetrating damp is caused by water seeping through the walls from outside and is caused by structural problems such as faulty guttering or roofing. It usually shows up as a concentrated damp patch on walls, ceilings or floors with a clear edge. This type of damp often gets worse when it rains.



Rising damp

Rising damp is caused by water in the soil moving up through a wall and will only affect ground floor rooms or basements. It isn't very common and is usually prevented by a barrier called a damp-proof course. Rising damp can occur if the damp-proof course in your home is either missing or damaged. Signs of rising damp include damaged skirting boards and floorboards, crumbling or salt-stained plaster, and peeling paint or wallpaper. Rising damp often has the appearance of a tide mark running along the bottom of a wall.



Plumbing fault

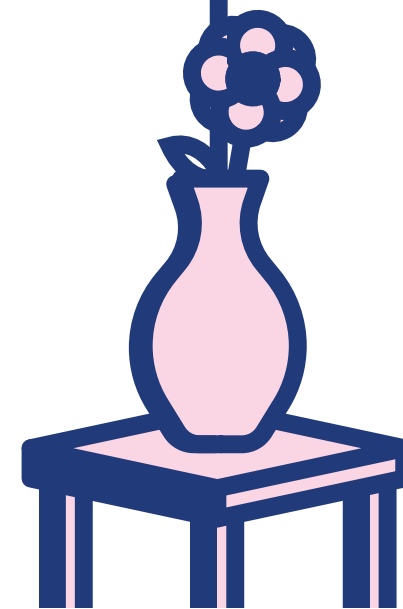
A plumbing fault such as a leak in a water or waste pipe can cause damp. This would usually occur in a kitchen or bathroom. The damp area would be wet to touch and would remain consistently damp regardless of the weather outside.



What is mould?

Excess condensation or it's important that it's treated structural damp issues can straight away as it can spread cause sitting water on surfaces quickly and be harmful to your like ceilings, walls and floors. health. Using a clean cloth This can lead to damage in and a white vinegar spray is your home, such as flaking an effective way to treat and paintwork, peeling wallpaper remove small areas of mould. or black mould. Black mould White vinegar can be used can grow on any surface, safely on most surfaces and but common places include will penetrate porous materials windowsills, ceilings or walls. to kill the mould at the roots. If you notice mould forming,

If mould returns after cleaning it away and following these tips, a structural issue may be the cause. Please contact us straight away on 01925 246810 so that we can arrange an inspection and take action fix the problem.

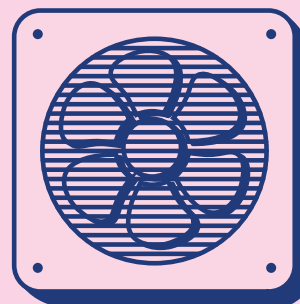


Healthy Home Top Tips

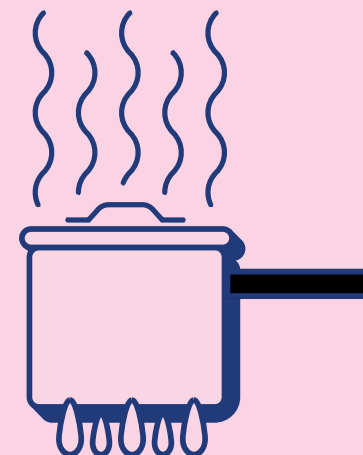
The best way to prevent condensation is to reduce the amount of moisture produced in your home and keep it as warm and ventilated as possible. Here are some Healthy Home Top Tips to help you do this.



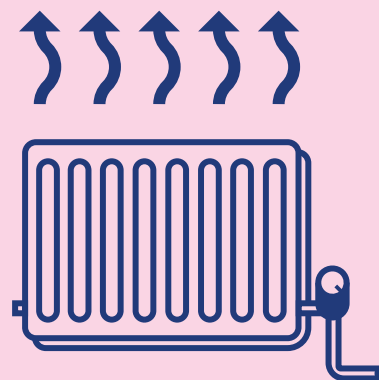
1. Opening windows when cooking, bathing or drying clothes helps moist air escape.



2. Turning your extractor fan on when cooking or bathing removes excess moisture from the air.



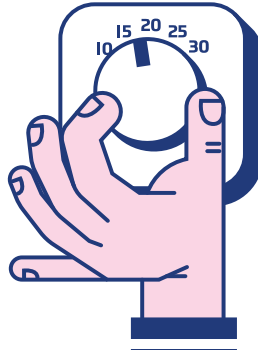
3. Putting lids on pans when cooking prevents excess moisture in the air (and helps save on your energy bill!)



4. Keeping your home heated helps to prevent condensation from forming on surfaces. We understand that with the rise in energy prices, keeping your home heated may be more difficult. For help with your energy bills, head to page 15.

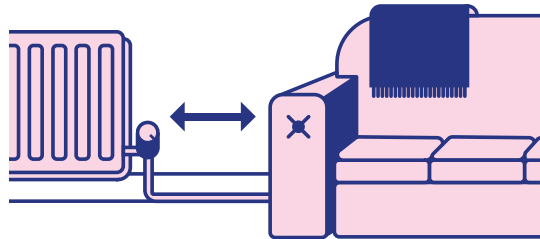
Healthy Home Top Tips

5. If you can, setting your thermostat to the lowest comfortable temperature (recommended between 18 – 21°C) will help to keep you and your home healthy while keeping your energy bills down. For help with your energy bills, head to page 15.

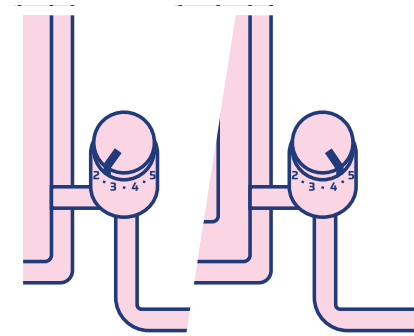
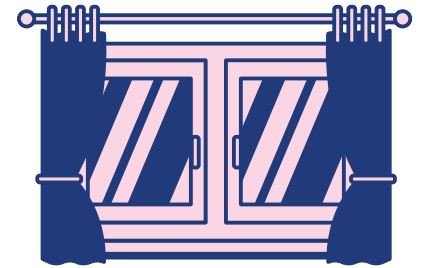


6. Drying clothes releases moisture, so if you have access to outside space, drying clothes outdoors helps to prevent excess moisture in your home. When using a drying rack indoors, opening a window slightly or turning on your extractor fan helps to remove excess moisture.

7. Moving sofas and other furniture away from radiators or heaters helps the heat to travel more effectively around the rooms in your home.

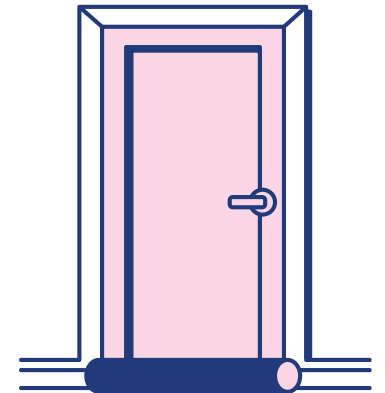


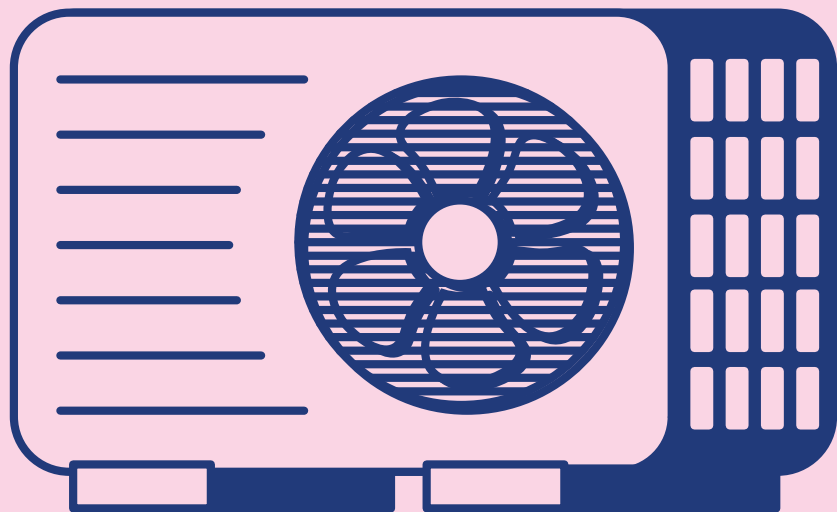
8. Curtains and rugs help to keep your home warm. Ideally, curtains should stop between the edge of the windowsill and above radiators. Opening them in the morning and closing them at dusk helps to let warmth in and keep the cold out.



9. Radiator valves allow you to control the temperature in each room. You can twist these to a higher setting in rooms you want to be warmer and lower in rooms you don't use as often, helping you to use your energy more efficiently and cost-effectively. Typical settings are 4-5 in living areas and 2-3 in bedrooms.

10. Closing internal doors and using draught excluders reduces the amount of heat moving into colder areas of your home. This helps keep the heat in the rooms you use most often, making them feel more comfortable.





Homes with heat pumps or storage heaters

Heat pumps

If your home has a heat pump, it will usually be designed to only come on when your home gets cold. You can control how warm you'd like your home to be by using your thermostat. You don't need to worry about timing it to go off when you're out.

Contact us on 01925 246810 for advice on your controls.

Storage heaters

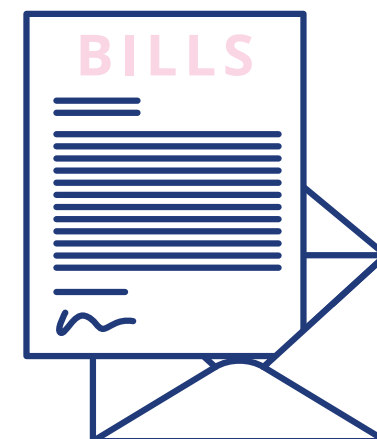
If your home has a storage heater, be familiar with your controls to stay warm and improve energy efficiency. 'Input' controls how much electricity is stored as heat. 'Output' controls how quickly that heat is released the following day. In colder weather, turning 'input' up will store more heat. If you're home and want more heat, you can set the 'output' higher. Turn 'output' lower while you're asleep or out of the home to keep energy bills down. Remember, you need to set the 'input' today for the heat you need tomorrow.

Contact us on 01925 246810 for advice on your controls.

Help with your energy bills

If you're struggling to pay your energy bills, speak to your energy provider to find out about any help they might be able to give.

For support, contact us on 01925 246810. For more information and support to help with the cost of living, visit <https://www.wha.org.uk/new-resources-to-help-you-cope-with-the-rising-cost-of-living/>



This handbook has been created in partnership with Energy Saving Trust.

For more Healthy Home Top Tips to reduce condensation visit: www.wha.org.uk

Don't forget to keep up to date with WHA via our social media and website



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Here's how you can find out more about the work we do and how to get in touch



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