

DEALING WITH DAMP, CONDENSATION & MOULD/MILDEW GROWTH IN YOUR HOME

Condensation can cause dampness and mould/mildew growth in your home. This looks unpleasant and can increase the risk of respiratory illness. It can also cause wooden window frames to rot. This leaflet will explain how to keep it to a minimum.

WHAT IS CONDENSATION?

Condensation starts as moisture in the air, usually produced by cooking, washing, drying clothes inside or gas heaters. When it hits cool surfaces such as walls, mirrors, wall tiles and windows, it condenses and forms water droplets. The moist air rises when it is warm and often ends up on ceilings and in upstairs rooms and then it forms mould.



WHY IS IT A PROBLEM? If you leave it untreated, condensation can result on mould growth on walls, ceilings, furniture, furnishings and clothing in cupboards & drawers. It can also affect wall plaster and cause woodwork to rot.

HOW TO REDUCE EXCESS CONDENSATION IN YOUR HOME:

- **CLOSE KITCHEN & BATHROOM DOORS TO STOP STEAM GOING INTO COLDER ROOMS.**
- **WHEN COOKING OR WASHING, LET THE STEAM ESCAPE OUT OF AN OPEN WINDOW OR USE AN EXTRACTOR FAN. LEAVE THE WINDOW OPEN FOR 20 MINS AFTER YOU HAVE FINISHED COOKING OR WASHING.**
- **OPEN WINDOWS DURING THE DAY IN EACH ROOM IF POSSIBLE OR ANY TRICKLE VENTS. THIS ALLOWS A CHANGE OF AIR.**
- **WIPE DOWN SURFACES WHEN MOISTURE SETTLES, TO STOP MOULD FORMING**
- **DO NOT BLOCK AIR VENTS & ALLOW AIR TO CIRCULATE AROUND FURNITURE ETC**

PRODUCE LESS MOISTURE:

- ◆ Dry clothes outside if possible or use small ventilated rooms
- ◆ Cover fish tanks and remember house pets and plants produce moisture as well
- ◆ Cover pans when cooking
- ◆ If you have a tumble dryer or washing machine, ensure that it is vented in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.



KEEP YOUR HOME WARM: * When the whole house is warmer, condensation is less likely to form. * Maintain low background heat when the weather is cold or wet.



WORDS OF WARNING:

- ◇ Do NOT block permanent ventilators
- ◇ Do NOT completely block chimneys. Leave a hole about 2 brick size and fit a louvered grille over the opening.
- ◇ Do NOT draught proof rooms where there is condensation or mould growth.
- ◇ Do NOT draught proof a room where there is a gas cooker or fuel burning heater. eg: a gas heater
- ◇ Do NOT draught proof windows in bathrooms or kitchens
- ◇ Do NOT put furniture against cold external walls

FIRST STEPS AGAINST MOULD:

1. Treat any mould you have already, then do what you can to reduce condensation. This will restrict mould growth
2. DO NOT disturb mould by brushing or cleaning, this will cause the mould spores to spread and inhaling the spores is not good for your health.
3. Wipe off mould growth immediately when you see it. DO NOT USE washing up liquid
4. To kill & remove mould wipe down affected areas with disinfectant or Glen 20. Glen 20 kills the mould, it will turn darker, then wipe off. Follow LABEL instructions. **DO NOT USE BLEACH**



THE KEY is to WIPE moisture + HEAT rooms + VENTILATE rooms