

DAMP AND MOULD

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Reducing the risk

Preventing condensation

ARE YOU DOING YOUR BIT?



Proud to Deliver



Is your home damp?

Damp can cause mould on walls and furniture and make timber window frames rot. Damp housing encourages the growth of mould and mites, and can increase the risk of respiratory illness.

Some damp is caused by condensation. This leaflet explains how condensation forms and how you can keep it to a minimum, so reducing the risk of dampness and mould growth.

What is condensation?

There is always moisture in the air, even if you cannot see it. If the air gets colder, it cannot hold all the moisture and tiny drops of water appear.

This is condensation. You notice it when you see your breath on a cold day, or when the mirror mists over when you have a bath.

Condensation occurs mainly during cold weather, whether it is raining or dry, it does not leave a 'tidemark'. It appears on cold surfaces and in places where there is little movement of air. Look for it in corners, on or near windows, in or behind wardrobes and cupboards. It often forms on north - facing walls.

3 steps to avoid condensation

1. Produce less moisture

Cover pans and do not leave kettles boiling.

Dry washing outdoors on a line, or in the bathroom with the door closed and window open.

Vent any tumble dryer on the outside, unless it is the self condensing type.

2. Ventilate

Keep a small window ajar or a trickle ventilator open when someone is in the room.

Ventilate kitchens and bathrooms when in use by opening the windows wider.

Close kitchen/bathroom doors when these are in use to prevent moisture reaching other rooms.

3. Insulate & Draughtproof

Insulate the loft and draughtproof loft hatch.

Consider cavity wall insulation.

Consider secondary or double glazing to reduce heat loss.

In cold weather keep the heating on low all day.

First steps against MOULD

First treat any mould you may already have in your home. If you deal with the basic problem of condensation, mould should not appear.

To kill and remove mould, wipe down walls and window frames with a fungicidal wash which carries a Health and Safety Executive 'approval number'. Dry clean mildewed clothes and shampoo carpets.

After treatment, redecorate using a good quality fungicidal paint to help prevent mould recurring.

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