

How to prevent

# Condensation, Damp & Mould

Advice for home owners and tenants



# Mould, damp and condensation

## What causes condensation?

Water vapour is created in your home every day by breathing, drying clothes, cooking and bathing.

Condensation develops when water vapour collects on a cold surface. It can happen at any time of the year and is often seen on windows, walls, tiled areas, concrete floors and toilet cisterns.

- ▶ To encourage air to circulate, you should open windows and trickle vents regularly



## Dew Point

The dew point is the temperature at which the air inside your home becomes saturated with water vapour. The extra vapour condenses into liquid water or dew and frost can form.

### Understanding the dew point can help you manage condensation by controlling:

- ▶ Moisture levels
- ▶ Air flow through ventilation
- ▶ Room temperature, heating and insulation.

# If you live in the home

Make sure you keep your home heated and well ventilated. Can you make small changes to your daily routines to create a healthier home? Read our tips below.

## **IMPORTANT**

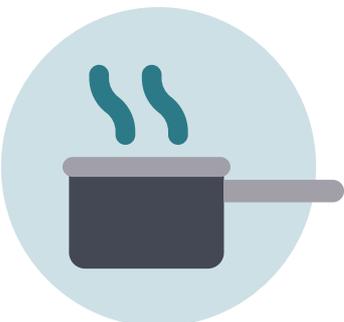
Tell your landlord about any leaks or early signs of dampness.

## How to manage condensation



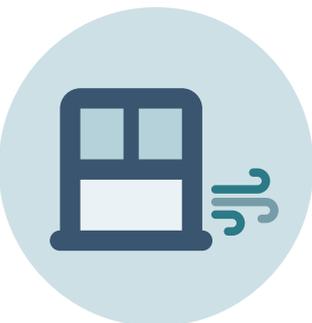
### Drying clothes

Try to dry your clothes outside. If drying clothing indoors, place on a drying rack in a sunny or heated room where a window can be opened slightly and keep the door closed.



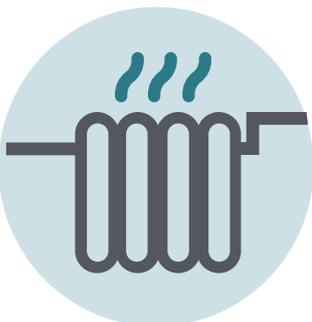
### Cooking

To reduce moisture you should keep lids on pans when cooking and use an extractor fan. Keep the kitchen door closed to stop moisture spreading to other rooms.



### Ventilating

Open your windows regularly but always after producing moisture e.g. running a bath. Open trickle vents in double glazed windows and leave your windows ajar if safe to do so. You may also consider installing a dehumidifier.



### Heating

Try to keep a constant temperature of 19°C in all rooms. This will reduce the likelihood of water vapour condensing on cold surfaces.

Avoid heating your home for short bursts of time. Learn to use your heating system and thermostatic controls to heat your home efficiently.

# If you live in the home

## Other ways to manage condensation

When creating moisture, e.g. boiling water or running a bath, ventilate the room and close the door to stop wet air spreading to colder rooms.



Mop up any water that sits on the window glass and sills.

Avoid using appliances that create lots of moisture such as liquid paraffin or bottled gas room heaters.



## Preventing and dealing with mould growth

Deal with any mould you spot quickly. Tell your landlord who may be able to paint the area with a mould inhibiting paint after it is treated and take other actions.

### To remove the mould safely and stop it coming back, follow these steps:

1. Ventilate the area before you start
2. Spray the area of mould with a bleach solution, following the instructions on the bottle
3. Use a scrubbing brush to remove all traces of mould and loose debris
4. Repeat if needed
5. Rinse and dry the area with a cloth

