

Condensation, damp and mould



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Condensation commonly appears on windows in living rooms, bathrooms, kitchens and bedrooms, and happens in many households when the temperature drops inside the house, especially at night when the heating is turned off. These droplets of moisture are formed when warm air inside our homes, hits a cold surface such as a wall or window, where it will then appear as condensation.

Some damp is caused by condensation which can lead to problems in your home, including black mould which can damage possessions and even affect your health.

Preventing condensation, damp and mould...

in the bathroom

During and after your bath or shower, keep your bathroom door shut. Always ensure the extractor fan is kept on.

in the kitchen

When washing clothes or cooking, keep the kitchen door shut. Use an extractor fan where fitted and keep the lids on pans when cooking.





while drying clothes

When the weather allows, dry your clothes outside. If that isn't possible, try to refrain from drying clothes on radiators as this will create water vapour. Where possible, dry clothes in the bathroom or kitchen with the door closed and the extractor fan on.

by heating your home

Try to keep your home at a consistent temperature (at least 20 degrees in cold weather). Avoid using paraffin heaters or flueless bottled gas heaters as these produce a lot of moisture. We understand it can get costly to heat your home through winter, so take care to close windows at night but ensure you leave trickle vents open at all times. If you are struggling to cope financially and need assistance, please visit our [help paying your bills page](#).

by ensuring airflow

Ensure that you do not block or cover air bricks, flues or air vents. Not only does this increase the likelihood of condensation, this could also be dangerous. Always ensure that furniture is not blocking air vents, and leave a gap between your furniture and walls of at least 75mm.





How to get rid of mould

If you have patches of black mould in your home, it means that you already have condensation or damp in your property and these affected areas will need to be properly treated.



If you're noticing large patches of mould (wider than half a meter), mould growth in multiple rooms, around the edges of ceilings or at the base of external walls, please report this to us on 01225 715 715 at info@selwoodhousing.com or via our [damp and mould repair pages](#).

For small patches of black mould, follow these steps to safely remove it:

You will need:

- gloves
- eye protection
- a mask
- a bristled brush
- a soft cloth
- mould cleaning product



Step 1:

Open windows and keep doors closed so the mould spores don't spread to other rooms.

Step 2:

Ensure you're wearing gloves, eye protection and a mask to clean any mould.

Step 3:

Spray the affected area and scrub with a hard bristled brush.

Step 4:


Rinse thoroughly and dry the area with a soft cloth then throw away the soft cloth.

Step 5:

Vacuum to get rid of any remaining fallen spores.

Step 6:

Follow our advice on [preventing damp and condensation in your home](#) to prevent mould returning.





Condensation and mould on windows and doors

During cold weather, you might notice condensation forming at the bottom of your windows in the mornings. It's a good idea to wipe away this moisture daily with a soft cloth or paper towel to prevent mould from developing.

You might also see mould growing around the edges of your windows and doors. To clean this, use a mould-cleaning solution and dry the area with a soft cloth or paper towel.





Other causes of damp

Penetrating damp

Penetrating damp can occur in properties of any age and at any level. It's the result of water coming through an external wall, window or roof. This can happen due to water entering a defect in the building, or when external brick and stone walls have degraded and become porous. The most common causes of penetrating damp include: defective rendering, blocked gutters, leaking pipes, gaps around window frames and roof leaks.

Rising damp

This is caused by a defective damp course. This type of damp will leave a 'tide mark' about a metre above the floor.



If you suspect you have penetrating or rising damp, contact us to book a repair appointment:

T: 01225 715 715

E: info@selwoodhousing.com

W: selwoodhousing.com/repairs

