

# Your Guide To: **CONDENSATION CONTROL**



**It is important that you are aware of the possible causes and symptoms of condensation so you can identify any problems easily and report any concerns to us.**

### **What is condensation?**

Condensation is the moisture caused by everyday living. Moisture is absorbed into warm atmosphere of your house and when the house cools down the moisture rests on cool surfaces resulting in condensation.

- This is also the most common damp issue in the home.
- This is further exacerbated by inadequate heating and ventilation in the home.
- This is seen as black mould or mildew, areas of spoiled paintwork, wall coverings, clothes and furnishings.
- If left untreated it can result in serious cases of wet & dry rot to timber.
- Inhalation of mould spores can worsen existing respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

### **What causes condensation?**

Condensation is often caused by:

- Cooking.
- Baths and showers.
- Washing and drying clothes.
- Portable central heating.

### **Are you aware?**

Condensation is sometimes confused with rising damp or penetrating damp.

### **Did you know?**

- Drying clothes indoors on radiators can produce nine pints of moisture;
- Using an unvented tumble dryer can produce four pints of moisture in each load;
- Two people at home can breathe three pints of water into the air each day and
- Cooking and using a kettle can produce six pints of moisture.



## What can you do to prevent condensation?

- Ventilate your home as much as possible by opening windows, trickle vents or, if you have extractor fans in the home, ensure they are in working order;
- Keep kitchen and bathroom doors shut, particularly if you are cooking, washing or taking a bath or shower;
- If you are drying clothes indoors, open a nearby window to allow air to circulate, otherwise condensation will increase. Try to dry clothes wherever possible outside;
- Install trickle vents;
- If you have an extractor fan in your kitchen or bathroom then use it when you are cooking or having a bath or shower;
- Vent a tumble dryer to the outside, unless it is a self-condensing type;
- If your heating is off for long periods of time, the temperature drops and condensation will form. You will get less condensation if you keep all rooms in your home warm most of the time. This reduces condensation and will also prevent damp and the likelihood of mould forming. During very cold weather it is better to leave the heating on during the day to maintain an even temperature and
- Try not to allow saucepans and kettles to boil for longer than is necessary. Always put lids on saucepans (this also helps you save energy).

## What to do if you have mould

- To prevent mould, make sure that you control condensation in your home.
- If you notice mould growing you should treat it straight away to stop it from spreading and causing more damage;
- Sterilise the affected area with a suitable fungicidal wash (available from most DIY stores). Keep checking the affected area for at least a week. If mould reappears, wash it down again with the fungicidal wash to make sure the area is thoroughly sterilised;
- If treatment appears to have been successful, you can carry out any necessary redecoration;
- Mould or mildew growing on clothes should be dry cleaned and
- Don't disturb mould using a brush or vacuum cleaner as you can risk increasing respiratory problems.



## Important points to remember

- Dry your clothes outside whenever possible;
- Wipe moisture from windows;
- Close bathroom door when you bath/shower and wipe down all surfaces after use;
- Keep your home warm and well ventilated and
- Keep lids on saucepans when cooking and use your kitchen's extractor fan.

**By following this advice you can stop condensation forming before it becomes a problem.**

# HOW TO CONTACT US

**BY PHONE: 0800 013 2196**

**All enquiries: Monday to Friday - 8am - 6pm**

**Emergency repairs: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

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