



**WHAT CAUSES
DAMP, MOULD AND
CONDENSATION IN
YOUR HOME**

ACCENTGROUP.ORG



CONDENSATION

Condensation, damp and mould can be quite common problems in our home.

There are four things that mainly cause condensation, which can lead to damp and mould:

- Moisture from everyday living.
- Not enough ventilation.
- Cool temperatures in cold weather
- Heating not being on at all or turned off in unused rooms.

Everyday living, like cooking, bathing and drying clothes, all adds to the moisture in the air and can lead to mould forming on surfaces such as walls, ceilings and windows, and even furniture.

There are things you can do to help stop condensation:

- Cover boiling pans when cooking and turn your kettle off after use.
- Wipe down surfaces on which moisture gathers.
- Dry your clothes outside if you can. If you can't, use a clothes drier in a room which you can ventilate and keep the door to that room closed. (If you use a tumble drier, make sure it is a condensing one or, if it isn't, vent it outside).
- Never use bottled gas or paraffin heating. These not only create a lot of moisture, these items are a breach of your tenancy as they can be a serious health and safety risk.
- Even our pets can create moisture. If you have a fish tank, keep it covered.



VENTILATING YOUR HOME

- When cooking, washing or bathing, open your windows or use your extractor fans. (When using fans, make sure they are clean and free from dust or grime which could stop them working properly).
- Keep trickle vents open.
- Open your windows and curtains every day.
- Never block air vents.
- Leave gaps between your furniture and outside walls. Don't push your furniture too close together.
- Don't overfill wardrobes or cupboards.



KEEP YOUR HOME WARM

- Draught proofing your windows and doors will keep warm air inside your home. (Don't draught proof your bathrooms or kitchen windows as the extra moisture in those rooms needs to escape).
- Keep your home on a constant low heat when it is cold or wet outside. (This is better than short bursts of heat).
- Use your heating as efficiently as possible. (Please refer to your heating system instructions on how best to do this).





MOULD

If you already have mould, there are things you can do to treat it and stop it from happening again.

Mould is a living thing and needs to be killed off with a safety approved fungicidal wash, which you can buy at any supermarket or DIY store. Wipe down the affected area then decorate it a safe, approved fungicidal paint to help stop mould coming back.

Don't brush or clean it with a vacuum as this can disturb the dry spores which could lead to you inhaling them.

Once it has gone, follow our advice for keeping your home free of condensation, mould and damp. You should start to see a difference in four to six weeks.

DAMP

There are three main types of damp:

- **Rising damp** – this is rare as our buildings are treated with a damp proof course. You can see rising damp where there are tide marks or ripples above your skirting boards.
- **Penetrating damp** – this is usually caused by damage to the structure of your home and it is more easily seen when it rains.
- **Plumbing or broken pipes** – these can show similar signs to penetrating damp and may need an investigation to find the exact cause.

Following these simple tips will help to keep your home free from condensation and mould. If you have more serious issues, which you think may be caused to damp that we will need to treat, please get in touch.

