

HOW TO GUIDE

How to prevent condensation in your home

Leeds 
Federated

What is condensation?

There are 3 main causes of condensation:

1. Moisture produced by everyday activities
2. Not enough ventilation
3. Cool temperatures

Cooking, drying clothes, bathing, even breathing adds to the moisture in the air. If this moisture can build up it can cause damp, increasing the risk of respiratory illness and causing black mould growth on walls, ceilings, furniture and clothing.







Some people do not realise that this mould growth is usually caused by condensation from normal activities, mistakenly thinking these are signs of damp caused by problems with the property itself.

Black Mould Growth

If you see black mould like this it is due to condensation:



How much moisture can be produced by normal activities in a single day?

Two people active for one day		3 pints
Cooking and boiling a kettle		6 pints
Having a bath or shower		2 pints
Washing clothes		1 pint
Drying clothes		9 pints
Using a paraffin or bottled gas heater		3 pints

Total amount of moisture produced in your home in one day

24 pints

How to deal with condensation...

Step 1

Stop the build-up of moisture

- Cover boiling pans with a lid when cooking to stop the steam escaping.
- Regularly wipe down surfaces where moisture settles e.g. windows.
- Avoid drying clothes indoors, especially on radiators and dry clothes outside where possible. If you need to dry your clothes indoors do so in the bathroom and ventilate the room by leaving a window open slightly and keeping the door closed to prevent moisture escaping to the rest of the house.
- Make sure tumble dryers are vented to the outside.
- Avoid using bottled gas or paraffin heaters as these produce a lot of moisture.



How to deal with condensation...

Step 2

Ventilate your home

- Use extractor fans or open windows when cooking or bathing.
- Where drying clothes inside is necessary, do so in a small room with windows open.
- Do not block air vents or air bricks.
- Open the interior doors of your home from time to time to allow air to circulate (but remember to close kitchen or bathroom doors when cooking or bathing).
- Allow air to circulate around furniture and in cupboards. You can do this by making sure cupboards and wardrobes aren't overfilled and there is space between the furniture and the wall.
- Open windows for a while each day or use the trickle vents.



IMPORTANT

Keep your home secure, when opening a window ensure this doesn't cause a security risk and close windows before you go out.

How to deal with condensation...

Step 3

Keep your home warm

- Draught proofing will keep your home warmer – and help reduce fuel bills. When the whole house is warmer, condensation is less likely to form.
However, do not draught proof the following windows in rooms:
 - where there is condensation or mould growth
 - where there is a gas cooker or a fuel-burning heater
 - the bathroom or kitchen
- Insulating your loft and walls will help. Contact us and speak to our Energy Efficiency Officer for more advice.
- Avoid putting furniture against cold external walls.



REMEMBER

Keeping your home warm will help to solve the problem of condensation but only when combined with Steps 1 and 2.

What to do if your home already has mould?

If you have severe condensation and mould like this in a living room or bedroom contact us to arrange an inspection – we may need to carry out works which could range from a professional mould clean to insulating walls or fitting extractor fans.



We will not carry out works:

- On small areas of mould. If you have small patches of mould growth you will need to remove it yourself.



How to get rid of mould in your home

- Do not disturb mould by brushing or vacuum cleaning. This can increase the risk of respiratory problems.
- Mould is a living organism and needs killing to get rid of it. To do this, wipe down affected areas with a fungicidal wash, making sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Mildewed clothes should be dry cleaned and any affected carpets shampooed.
- After treatment, redecorate using a good quality fungicidal paint to help prevent mould recurring. This paint is not effective if overlaid with ordinary paints or wallpaper.



What do I do next?

If you have followed the advice given in this leaflet, you should begin to notice a considerable improvement in around four to six weeks. If the problem persists, it may be due to another cause of damp. There are four main causes of damp.

- **Condensation** – as discussed in this leaflet.
- **Rising damp** – this is rare as a damp proof course prevents this but can usually be seen by a tide mark above the skirting board.
- **Penetrating damp** – caused by a problem with the fabric of the building, e.g. leaking gutters, allowing rainwater to get through the walls, roof, windows or doors. Penetrating damp becomes more noticeable when it rains.
- **Plumbing** faults or broken leaking pipes.

Rising damp and penetrating damp can usually be easily identified at the early stages. A leaking pipe can be more difficult to identify, and if you suspect you have a leaking pipe then this should be reported as soon as possible.

If you have not seen obvious improvement following our advice, or you suspect a more serious cause of damp, please report it to us.

CONTACT US

You can contact us by phoning 0113 386 1000, emailing repairs@lfha.co.uk or you can write to us

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