

## How do you clean damp and mould?



### Mildew Forming...

If you see mildew or mould forming, be sure to use gloves and a face mask before cleaning. Do not brush or vacuum as this can increase the risk of breathing problems.



### Kill and remove...

To kill and remove mould, wipe down or spray with a fungicidal wash or very diluted bleach. Ensure that you follow the manufacturer's instructions. Fungicidal washes are available at local supermarkets or DIY stores.



### Monitor regularly...

Keep an eye on these problem areas and clean the moisture and damp away regularly to minimise chances of mould returning.



### Keep ventilated...

Ventilate the room when cleaning mould spots.

When working with chemicals, always follow manufacturer's instructions.



### Disposal...

Dispose of any rags you have used to clean mould.

## South Derbyshire District Council is here to support you

Remember, when condensation builds up it can cause mould to grow. You have a responsibility to help prevent mould in your home by regularly wiping surfaces which are prone to condensation. Making small changes can help prevent mould caused by condensation.

However, the Council is responsible for damp and mould where it is caused by leaks (e.g. windows, roofs, guttering and plumbing), penetrating water or raising damp.

Use this link to watch a short video on preventing mould:

[www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/our-services/housing/council-tenant/protecting-your-home/preventing-condensation](http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/our-services/housing/council-tenant/protecting-your-home/preventing-condensation)

If you need more advice, you need to report a repair or you are worried about damp or mould, please contact us.

Call us: 01283 595795

Email us: [housing.repairs@southderbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:housing.repairs@southderbyshire.gov.uk)

Visit us: South Derbyshire District Council,  
Civic Offices, Swadlincote, DE11 0AH

[www.southderbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk)

Scan this QR code to  
view your rent account or  
report / track a repair online.



Do not leave the problem unresolved, if damp and mould has not been resolved please contact us and we will carry out further investigations to work with you to ensure your home meets the required standards and is safe.

Any re-occurrence of damp or mould please report immediately, and we will revisit, assess and complete any further works required. South Derbyshire District Council takes damp and mould seriously and will work with you to ensure your home is safe and free from damp and mould.



## Condensation, Damp and Mould Advice for tenants



# A guide to Condensation, Damp and Mould

**Damp can cause mould on windows, walls and furniture. When your home is damp and cold this encourages the growth of mould. It is caused by condensation or water either in the air or from a defect in your home.**

**This leaflet explains how condensation forms and how you can keep it to a minimum. It also explains how to get in touch if there is an issue with damp and mould in your property.**

## What is Condensation?

There is always some moisture in the air, even if you cannot see it. If air gets cold, it cannot hold all the moisture produced by everyday activities and some of this moisture appears as tiny droplets of water, most noticeable on windows in the morning. It can also be seen on mirrors when you have a bath or shower. Condensation will also settle on any cold surface if there is too much moisture in the air.



Condensation is generally noticeable where it forms on non-absorbent surfaces, such as windows, mirrors or tiles. However, it can form on any surface, and it may not be noticed until mould growth or rotting of material occurs. As the weather turns colder, condensation and mould can form more easily.

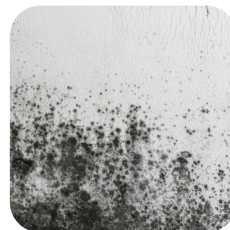
## What else causes Damp?

Condensation is not the only cause of damp. It can also come from an escape of water into your home, typically from leaking pipes, rain seeping through the roof due to missing tiles, damages or blocked gutters, penetrating around window frames, or rising damp due to a defective or lack of a damp course.



## Can mould have health implications?

Condensation and mould growth can have health implications if left without treatment. This guide will provide you with the information you need to control condensation. If this does not solve the issues, please report this as a repair, as detailed in this leaflet.



## Diagnosing Damp and Mould

**Damp and mould can be caused by multiple issues all adding to the problem, which can make it difficult and not always possible to diagnose the complete cause of damp in one visit as the 'water/moisture' can be coming from more than one source. If works are required, they may not fix the issues straight away. It is important that when works are carried out that any re-occurrence of damp is reported to us and follow up works completed.**

## Ways to reduce condensation

### Produce less moisture

- ➔ Hang washing outside to dry if possible or hang it in a room with the door closed, window open and/or extractor fan on. Don't be tempted to dry clothes on radiators, this increases moisture considerably.
- ➔ When having a bath run the cold water first, this reduces steam considerably.
- ➔ Ensure tumble driers are vented to the outside or are condensing driers.
- ➔ When cooking, cover pans, use extractors and do not leave kettles boiling.



### Remove excess moisture

- ➔ Ensure extractor fans are running in the bathroom and kitchen especially when moisture is being generated (running baths, shower or cooking).
- ➔ Open a window when cooking or showering, if possible, even if it is only ajar it helps to allow the moisture to escape.
- ➔ Keep bathroom or kitchen doors closed when having a shower or bath, or when cooking. This will prevent moisture from spreading to other parts of the property.
- ➔ Wipe the windows and sills down each morning to remove condensation.
- ➔ Have moisture absorbing plants; Peace Lilies, palms and ferns are all moisture absorbers.



### Ventilation

- ➔ Keep trickle vents in windows open. Open curtains to allow air flow to the window.
- ➔ Open windows regularly, daily for about 30-60mins is enough ensuring a window is open at each end of your home to encourage airflow.
- ➔ Positioning furniture a little away from walls, so the air has a free flow around the room.
- ➔ Check extractor fans are in good working order and are not switched off at the isolator switch.
- ➔ Do not overfill wardrobes and cupboards, as it restricts air circulation and can cause mildew.



### Heating

- ➔ Heating should be thermostatically controlled wherever possible, ideally between 18-21°C.
- ➔ Keeping heating on, at a low setting all day in colder weather is better for controlling moisture and is more economical than blasting the heating for short periods of time.

