

YOUR GUIDE FOR DEALING WITH CONDENSATION

Condensation happens when warm, moist air hits a cold surface such as a window or outside wall and condenses, running down the surface as water droplets. A build-up of moisture in your home can cause damp and mould problems and could affect your health.



During the colder months condensation can become a major problem in your home.

Condensation happens when warm, moist air hits a cold surface such as a window or outside wall and condenses, running down the surface as water droplets. Moisture left on your walls can lead to black mould. Mould looks and smells bad, can cause serious health problems and damage clothes, furniture and books.

How do I know it's condensation?

If the surface is cold and wet, it's likely condensation is the cause. There might be places where wallpaper is peeling due to moisture. Look for areas on your wall with clouds of little black spots – this is mould caused by condensation

There are three main causes of condensation:

- moisture produced by everyday activities
- not enough ventilation
- cool temperatures

If you have tried to remove the mould and it continues to reappear or get worse, it's really important that you tell us.

Not all damp and mould is caused by condensation. The cause can sometimes be more serious such as:

- leaking or blocked gutters
- a leaking roof
- water leaks



Report Damp and Mould to us by calling

01775 761161

The following tips can help to prevent damp and are good practice to follow to address condensation, even when damp is not a problem in your home

How can I stop moisture build-up?

- when showering, bathing, or cooking, open a window or vent for at least 20 mins afterwards
- when running a bath, run cold water first, then hot, this will reduce condensation by 90%
- if you have extractor fans, use them – this is really important. Most of the fans we install will automatically run when moisture is detected in the air
- keep your bathroom and kitchen doors closed during and after use
- wipe condensation off your windows and sills
- only boil as much water as you need when boiling the kettle to reduce steam

How to keep your home warm:

- draught proofing will keep your home warmer – and help reduce fuel bills. Draught proof your home, such as under doors, and close curtains at night
- hang thick lined curtains
- try to keep temperatures in all rooms to above 18°C when using them - this will reduce condensation forming



How can I ventilate or air my home?

- when cooking or washing, open windows and/or use extractor fans
- when drying clothes inside try to do it in a small room and open the window. Don't dry wet clothes on radiators.
- don't block air vents
- don't put furniture next to walls – make sure to leave a gap to let the air flow



**Reporting damp and mould
Call us on 01775761161**

Email: dcm@sholland.gov.uk

Our team will ask you questions to help us prioritise your report.

We can provide this information in other languages and formats for example, in large print, in Braille, on CD or audio cassette. Please email info@sholland.gov.uk or phone 01775 761161.