

What is condensation?

Condensation is formed when water droplets in the warm air in your home come into contact with colder surfaces, such as windows, external walls, and pipes.

It is common to all homes, and is created by daily activities such as cooking, bathing/showering, and washing and drying clothes. If not dealt with promptly, condensation can lead to black mould appearing, which looks unpleasant and can damage clothes and furniture.

The formation of condensation is worse in winter when there are greater variations of air temperature between indoors and outdoors.

Warm humid air also allows dust mites to breed, which can make existing respiratory conditions such as asthma worse.

If you are still concerned about damp and black mould in your home after following this guidance, please contact our Customer Service Centre. We are here to help you.



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Controlling
damp and black
mould in your
home

Damp and black mould can make your home feel like an unpleasant place to live. Most often they are caused by condensation which you can tackle or prevent with some simple changes.

How do I reduce condensation?

You can reduce the amount of condensation and the possibility of black mould forming by:

- ▶ Keeping your home well-ventilated (e.g. by opening windows in different parts of the property to increase air flow)
- ▶ Keeping your home reasonably warm and at a constant setting for longer to avoid extreme temperature difference



Common places to find condensation are around windows, behind furniture, in corners of rooms, and on ceilings. It can be especially noticeable in kitchens and bathrooms so when cooking and bathing it is a good idea to open a window to allow the moisture in the air to escape.



Here are a few simple steps you can take to help reduce condensation in your home:

- ✔ Open your windows as much as possible
- ✔ Keep trickle-vents open at all times (if they are fitted in your property)
- ✔ When preparing a bath, running the cold water first before the hot will reduce steam by 90%
- ✔ Keep lids on pans when cooking
- ✔ Keep ventilation fans switched on (if they are fitted in your property)
- ✔ Keep kitchen and bathroom doors closed to stop moisture escaping
- ✔ Ventilate your bedroom at night while you sleep
- ✔ Keep furniture away from walls to allow air to flow around the room
- ✔ Wipe condensation from windows and windowsills as soon as possible after it forms
- ✔ Treat the first signs of mould with a mould and mildew cleaner
- ✘ Do NOT dry clothes on radiators
- ✘ Do NOT use an unvented tumble dryer
- ✘ Do NOT use bottled gas heaters (they produce eight pints of water per cylinder)
- ✘ Do NOT use your gas cooker to heat your kitchen
- ✘ Do NOT block permanent fans
- ✘ Do NOT obstruct or block air bricks inside or outside your home
- ✘ Do NOT block windows or trickle-vents in any room

