

# Damp, mould and condensation

## What is condensation?

There is always moisture in the air even if you cannot see it. When the air gets colder, water in the air turns to liquid from gas and tiny drops of water appear, this is condensation. You may notice it when you see your breath on a cold day or when the mirror in the bathroom mists over.

Condensation mainly occurs during cold weather regardless of whether it is raining or dry. It tends to appear on cold surfaces and places where there is little or no movement of air, in the corners of rooms near windows or behind cupboards and wardrobes.



Condensation on your windows

## Why is condensation a problem?

Every home gets a bit of condensation at some time, for example when you have a bath or shower or when you are cooking. The problem is if your home has lots of condensation, this can lead to damp and mould. You might get mould on your windows, ceilings or walls, particularly behind your furniture. This can damage your home and may even affect your health if nothing is done to remove it.



## What is mould?

Mould can grow on any surface, so if you spot any mould, it is important to take early action as it can spread quickly.



Mould can look like this

## What can you do to prevent damp, mould and condensation?

These simple steps will help:

### Put less water in the air

- Put lids on saucepans when you are cooking.
- Dry your clothes outside if possible.
- Put a small amount of cold water in the bath before you turn on the hot tap.
- Do not run your shower for longer than needed.
- Wipe away any condensation or water every day.
- Apply a mould cleaning spray to affected surfaces to help stop mould returning.

### Make sure your home is heated properly

- Make sure your home is warm enough – if you are concerned about the costs of this please let a member of Transform staff know.
- Heat your home more evenly – a low level of heating all day is better than quick blasts when necessary (this should also reduce bills).
- Use thermostats to control your heating.

### Stop water vapour spreading

#### When you are cooking

- Shut your kitchen door
- Use a cooker hood or extractor fan
- Open a window

#### When you have a bath or a shower:

- Shut the bathroom door
- Use an extractor fan if you have one
- Open a window

### Ventilate your home

- Keep a small window ajar to let air in
- Always keep trickle vents (small vents in your windows) open
- Ventilate kitchens and bathrooms when in use by opening windows or using extractor fans if you have them
- Close kitchen and bathroom doors when cooking or bathing
- Make sure other doors are closed, especially bedroom doors as bedrooms are normally slightly colder and will attract moisture
- Ventilate cupboards and wardrobes and avoid putting too much in them, as this stops air circulating
- Do not put wardrobes against external walls
- Keep furniture away from walls to allow air to circulate

## Signs of mould

### When looking for potential damp and mould – here are things to look for...

- Walls that are damp to the touch
- Damp and mould patches
- Mould in corners of rooms
- Mould behind furniture
- Mildew on clothes and furnishings
- Musty and damp smells.

### Understand why the mould has appeared, has anything changed?

- Are there more people living in the property?
- Have you recently got a pet?
- Are you no longer turning on your heating?
- Are your extractors in the kitchen and bathroom in full working order?
- Are there any leaks in your home that need reporting to Transform?
- Are the windows or vents not being opened to allow ventilation?

## What can Transform do?

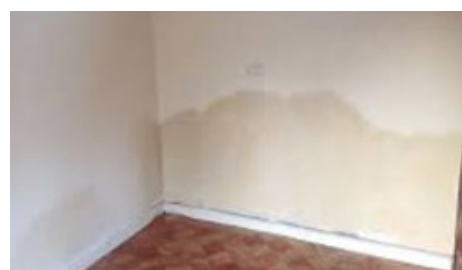
If you currently have mould in your property this needs to be eliminated before it spreads. We are taking a proactive approach and would like to help you as soon as possible.

Please report any mould immediately. Our maintenance team will organise an inspection and if you can send pictures that will help our staff in supporting you.

## Are there any other types of damp that Transform needs to know about?

There is also rising damp and penetrating damp. The signs that a building has these are a little bit different to the mould described above. If you see signs of either of these then please contact a member of staff. Rising damp is ground water that rises into the masonry of the building i.e. up through the walls from the ground. Penetrating damp is where wind driven rain or a leaking pipe penetrates walls. Signs of rising and penetrating damp are tide marks and salts as shown right.

If you see signs of either of these then please contact a member of staff.



**Penetrating and rising damp**

More information relating to this is included in your [Client Handbook](#) or you can request a copy from a member of the team.