
Signs that you may have a problem with mould and damp.

If your house is too cold, you will notice that:

- Your house, clothing and bedding will feel cold and damp.
- There will be a musty, damp smell.
- You may notice some mould growth on furniture/ external walls, in cupboards/drawers, on or around windows and on your clothing/bedding.
- Wallpaper may start peeling around windows or other areas.
- It takes a long time before your heating begins to take effect, leaving you not feeling properly warm, and walls stay cold to the touch.

How to control condensation: Look at your lifestyle within the building

Produce less moisture by:

- Covering boiling pans, opening windows, and closing doors when cooking.
- Air-dry clothes outdoors – if possible.
- Make use of the dryer machine – if fitted
- If no drying facilities are available, dry in the bathroom with the window open, or extractor fan on, and if possible, with heating in that room.
- Hanging wet coats in the hallway when people visit.
- Considering the use of moisture traps - these can be bought for as little as £5 online.
- Wiping up any water puddles lying on windowsills etc.
- Open windows when ironing/cooking/bathing.

Ventilate your home by:

- Ventilating the room to the outside when using the bath or shower – open a window and close the door.
- Trying to increase the change of air in the premises by opening windows daily for no longer than 30-60 minutes at a time to avoid over-ventilating the property.
- Positioning furniture so that it's a little further away from the walls, so the air has a free flow around the room.
- Refraining from over-filling cupboards to bursting point - again, allow the air to flow.
- Ensuring trickle vent flaps on windows are open and air vents are unblocked.
- Ensuring extractor fans are on and in full working condition, in both kitchens and bathrooms.

Adequately heat your home by:

- Ensuring heating is thermostatically controlled wherever possible at a temperature between 18-21C.
- Make use of any timer facility on your boiler to control heating.
- Keeping heating on, at a low setting, all day in colder weather. (This is also more economical than blasting the heating for short periods of time!)
- Ensuring that when heating is turned up, this is for a minimum of 3 hours. Any less will worsen the problem as the air will absorb the water vapour more quickly than walls can heat up. Thus, meaning that when heating is turned off, the air will cool quickly causing rapid condensation and cooling walls further.

Removing mould growth:

In the unfortunate case that mould might have appeared, here are the steps to take:

1. Wash the affected area with an anti-mould cleaner or non-ammonia soap/detergent, using hot water.
2. Rinse and dry the affected area.
3. Use an anti-mould disinfectant or diluted bleach once the area has been thoroughly cleaned to ensure that most microorganisms have been killed.
4. Any fabrics/clothing/soft furnishings should be put in the washing machine on as high temperature as possible, without damaging the items.

If the problem persists despite taking all precautions, contact your landlord in case there is a problem in the property. It is better to contact your landlord before approaching the council.