



## CONDENSATION



### What is condensation?

Condensation comes from water vapour being produced from within a building that cannot escape. Moisture is always in the air even although it cannot be seen. Condensation occurs when moist air comes into contact with a cold surface and water droplets form on windows, mirrors and cold spots on internal walls.

Condensation happens mostly on colder parts of external walls, particularly where there is not much air movement, for example in the corner of rooms, wardrobes and beds or even inside wardrobes.

It's presence is often first seen by the development of mould growth on walls and ceiling and in some cases furniture and clothes. It can also lead to the rotting of affected timber such as window cills.

Condensation usually occurs during the cold winter months October/November through to March/April and is commonly known as the "condensation season".

### **First Steps in Tackling mould growth**

To kill and remove mould, wipe down or spray walls etc with a fungicidal wash that carries a Health & Safety Executive (HSE) "approval number" and follow its instructions carefully. You can often buy these at supermarkets.

After treatment, redecorate using a good quality fungicidal paint and a fungi and fungicidal resistant wall paper paste to help prevent mould growth recurring. **NB The effect of fungicidal or anti condensation paint is destroyed if covered with ordinary paint or wall paper**

Dry-clean mildewed clothes and shampoo any affected carpets. Don't try to remove the mould by using a brush or Hoover.

### **Reduce condensation by producing less moisture**

Hang your washing outside to dry, if at all possible, or hang it in the bathroom with the door closed and the window slightly open or the extractor fan on.

Do not put washing on Radiators.

Always cook with the pan lids on and turn the heat down once the water has boiled. Only use the minimum amount of water in the pot.

When filling your bath run the cold water first and then the hot, it reduces steam (which leads to condensation by up to 90%).

If you use a tumble dryer, make sure it is vented to the outside or it is a new condensing type.

Don't use gas or paraffin heaters. They provide high levels of moisture

### Increase your ventilation

- Ventilate your bedroom by leaving a window open at night and during the day, or use the trickle vents if fitted;
- Keep a kitchen window open when cooking or washing, use your extractor fan if you have one;
- Ventilate your kitchen and bathroom for about 20 mins after use by opening the window slightly;
- Use the extractor fan, they are very effective and cheap too.

### Typical Cause of condensation

- Everyday living adds extra moisture being produced in your home
- Not enough ventilation
- Cold surfaces (external walls)
- The temperature within your home

One person asleep adds half a pint of water into the air overnight and twice that when active during the day.

The larger your family, the more moisture you will produce. The water will stay in your home until **you** take steps to get rid of it.

Condensation can happen in any room but it is more likely to occur in a room that is colder, such as a bedroom.

If that bedroom has furniture placed on the colder external walls where there is little air flow then condensation will form on these areas

The following table shows how much water we produce at home in a typical 24 hour period.

· 2 people at home	3 pints
· A bath or a shower	2 pints
· Drying clothes indoors	9 pints
· Cooking and using a kettle	6 pints
· Washing dishes	2 pints

**TOTAL MOISTURE ADDED 26 PINTS OR 14.8 LITRES**

### **First steps in tackling condensation**

- Dry your windows and window cills every morning, as well as any wet surfaces in the kitchen and bathroom;
- Stop drying clothes on radiators;
- Increase the ventilation within your home;
- Make sure your home is adequately heated;

### **Control the temperature within your home**

Do not heat one room and leave the others cold. It is better to heat the home throughout at a medium to low level.

It is cheaper to keep your central heating on at a low level and maintain a low heat than it is to suddenly heat the house twice a day from the cold

### **Reduce the number of cold surfaces in your room**

Don't push furniture against the outside walls that are always colder and attract condensation, make sure there is a decent gap.

Do not overfill wardrobes and cupboards as it restricts air flow.

### **Follow these 4 steps to reduce condensation within your home**

- 1 Cut down on the moisture you produce within you home.
- 2 Increase your ventilation
- 3 Reduce the number of cold surfaces
- 4 In cold weather maintain a low level of heating throughout

**IF YOU NEED ANY FURTHER ADVICE ON DAMPNES WITHIN YOUR HOME  
PLEASE CONTACT 0141 551 8131.**