

## Top Tips for preventing damp, mould and condensation

### Produce less moisture

- Cover pans when cooking
- Dry clothes outdoors where possible
- Vent your tumble dryer to the outside
- Avoid using paraffin or flue-less bottled gas heaters

### Ventilate to remove moisture

- Increase ventilation of the kitchen and bathroom when in use and ensure the doors are kept shut
- Ventilate cupboards, wardrobes and blocked chimneys
- Allow space for the air to circulate in and around your furniture.

### Insulate and Draught proof

- Insulate the loft
- Draught proof windows and external doors
- Consider cavity insulation
- Consider secondary glazing

### Heat your home a little more

- If possible, keep low background heat on all day, with background ventilation
- Insulating your loft and walls will help to reduce condensation

## Need more help?

For more information and advice please contact:



[www.cornwall.gov.uk/responsiblelandlords](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/responsiblelandlords)

This leaflet has been prepared by Private Sector Housing, Planning and Enterprise Service, Cornwall Council.

Telephone: **0300 1234 151**  
Email: **psh@cornwall.gov.uk**

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**County Hall**  
**Treyew Road**  
**Truro TR1 3AY**

Telephone: **0300 1234 100**

Email: **enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk**

**[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)**

# Damp, Mould & Condensation

A bite size guide for tenants advising how to help keep your home free from damp and mould



# What is Condensation?

Condensation is the water produced when warm moist air comes into contact with a colder surface. This usually happens during the winter, as the air in your house is much warmer than the air outside. Windows are often the first place in your home where you notice condensation.

This leaflet explains how condensation forms and how you can keep it to a minimum, so reducing the risk of dampness and mould growth in your home.

## The amount of moisture produced in your home in a day

Some of the things that create moisture in the home	Pints of water produced
2 people at home for 1 day	III
Cooking and boiling a kettle	IIIIII
Having a bath or shower	II
Washing clothes	I
Drying clothes	IIIIIIII

## Three main ways of tackling condensation

### 1. Stop moisture building up

- Wipe down surfaces where moisture settles
- Dry clothes outside where possible
- Close the kitchen and bathroom doors when these rooms are in use even if your kitchen or bathroom has an extractor fan
- Ensure tumble dryers are vented to the outside

### 2. Ventilate, or air your home

- When cooking or washing, open windows or use extractors
- First thing in the morning open a couple of windows for about 15 minutes to allow fresh air in to the property.
- Where drying clothes inside is necessary, do so in a small room with windows open
- Ensure air vents are not blocked
- Try not to fill cupboards and under the bed too full. Wherever possible, don't place furniture directly against the wall. This stops the air circulating and will encourage mould growth.

### 3. Keep your home warm

- Draught proofing will keep your home warmer and also help to reduce fuel bills
- Having insulation in your loft will help to reduce condensation
- Maintain a low heat when the weather is cold or wet. When the whole house is warmer, condensation is less likely to form

## What to do if your home already has mould

- Do not disturb mould by brushing or vacuum cleaning. This can increase the risk of respiratory problems.
- Treat any mould you may already have in your home then reduce the levels of condensation which in turn will restrict new mould growth.
- Mould is a living organism and needs to be killed to eradicate it. To do this, wipe down affected areas with fungicidal wash making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- After treatment, redecorate using a good quality fungicidal paint to prevent mould recurring.

## I have followed the advice in this leaflet, what do I do next?

If you have followed the advice given in this leaflet, then you should begin to notice an improvement within four to six weeks.

If the problem persists, it may be due to another cause of damp such as;

- Plumbing faults or broken leaking pipes
- Rising damp – this can usually be seen by a tide mark above the skirting board
- Penetrating damp – caused by a problem with the fabric of the building which means rainwater is able to get through the walls, roof, windows or doors