



Damp



Rising damp, though less common than condensation, can still damage your home.

It stems from failed damp-proof courses, allowing ground moisture to climb your walls, which often emerges via the appearance of 'tide marks' from salt deposits in groundwater.

Penetrating damp, entering from outside, can affect any level of your home, often caused by structural issues like overflowing gutters, missing tiles, and leaky pipes. If you spot damp, it's crucial to determine its cause and take action as soon as possible.

Typical signs of penetrating damp are:

- ✓ Growing areas of damp on walls or ceilings
- ✓ Blotchy patches on walls
- ✓ Cracked or missing mortar between bricks
- ✓ Wet and crumbly plaster
- ✓ Signs of spores or mildew
- ✓ Drips and puddles



Mould



Mould from condensation can stain or damage your home's interior and belongings, creating a musty odour.

Black mould might mean condensation, not rising damp. You should treat black mould with a fungicidal wash, following the product's instructions. Certain paints can slow mould regrowth, but you'll need to manage the condensation to fully stop it.



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Dealing with damp, mould & condensation

Condensation



In winter, many UK homes struggle with condensation when warm air meets cold surfaces, creating water droplets that can lead to black mould.

This not only damages household items but can also affect health. Allowing air to circulate and ventilating rooms are key to letting moist air out and keeping your home dry to prevent condensation.

The major difference between condensation and other forms of dampness is that you can reduce the problem by changing behaviour.



Condensation in the home occurs when there is too much moisture in the air.



Take steps to reduce the amount of moisture in the air by following the checklists...

- ☐ In cold weather try and keep temperatures between 18-21 C in main living areas whilst indoors
- ☐ Don't block airbricks or air vents
- ☐ To kill and remove mould, wipe down wall and window frames with a fungicidal wash which carries a Health & Safety Executive approved number
- ☐ Dry washing outside whenever possible
- ☐ Don't dry clothes on radiators. This will make your boiler work harder to heat your house and cost almost as much as using a tumble dryer, whilst creating a lot of condensation
- ☐ If you need to dry clothing indoors and don't have a tumble dryer, place clothes on a drying rack in a sunny room where a window can be opened slightly and keep the door closed
- ☐ No drying rack? Put your clothes on hangers and hang from a curtain pole above a slightly opened window; this can also reduce the need for ironing

Other ways you can reduce condensation in your home:

- ☐ Close internal doors whilst cooking and open a window
- ☐ Use an extractor fan if you have one
- ☐ Put lids on pans (this also reduces boiling times and helps save money)
- ☐ Only boil as much water as you need in a kettle to reduce steam and save money
- ☐ Open windows whilst bathing/washing/showering and leave them open for about 20 minutes after, if it is safe to do so
- ☐ Take shorter and cooler showers
- ☐ When running a bath put the cold water in first; this results in significantly less condensation
- ☐ Wipe down windows/mirrors/tiles/shower doors with a window squeegee and mop up the moisture with a super absorbent cloth which can be wrung out in the sink
- ☐ Don't leave wet towels lying around
- ☐ Try drying yourself with a smaller towel and wringing it out, wrapping yourself in a bigger towel or dressing gown for warmth. Microfibre towels are great for this as they both absorb more water and dry quickly
- ☐ Open window trickle vents during the day or when going out, or open windows for at least 10 minutes every day
- ☐ Don't put furniture, including beds, against any outside walls and try to leave a gap between the wall and furniture to allow airflow
- ☐ Lay thick carpet with a good thermal underlay
- ☐ Hang thick, heavy lined curtains during the winter



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