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

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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

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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.

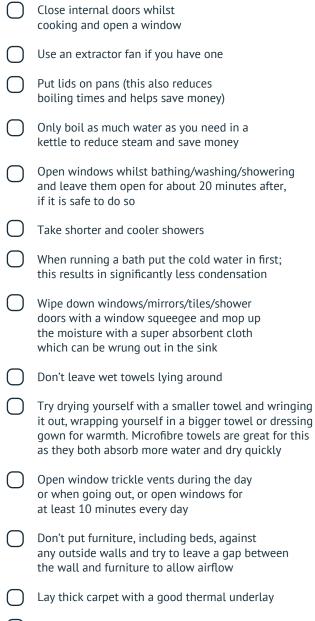


Condensation in the home occurs when there is too much moisture in the air.

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:



Hang thick, heavy lined curtains during the winter

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