



HOW TO REDUCE MOULD & CONDENSATION IN YOUR HOME



WHAT IS CONDENSATION?

Condensation happens when the moisture in warm air comes into contact with a cold surface, like mirrors, windows or tiles, appearing as tiny droplets of water.

It can also form in cold rooms when there is little movement of air, such as behind furniture, in corners and in wardrobes.

Condensation is caused by too much moisture in the air, not enough ventilation or extreme temperatures.

HOW CAN CONDENSATION IMPACT YOUR HOME?

Condensation can cause **black mould** to form on walls and fabrics. It can damage plasterwork and wooden window frames and can also increase the number of house mites.

If someone in your home has a **breathing condition** such as asthma or bronchitis, mould and house mites can make their condition worse.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO PREVENT CONDENSATION

- Avoid drying your clothes on radiators or in front of a fire. Hang washing outside or in the bathroom with the door closed and window slightly open.
- Keep your home well ventilated allowing moist air to escape and drier air to come in from outside.
- Put the cooker extractor fan on, if you have one.
- Always cook with the pan lids on and turn the heat down once the water has boiled.
- When filling your bath, run the cold water first then add the hot— this will reduce steam by up to 90%.
- Avoid using bottled gas heaters as these produce additional moisture.



TREATING CONDENSATION

Don't try to remove mould with a brush or vacuum - this can release spores and increase the risk of breathing problems.

- Dry your windows and windowsills every morning.
- Use a fungicidal wash to clean mould on affected walls and ceilings. *(Remember to use a mould and mildew remover that carries a Health & Safety Executive (HSE) approved number, and ensure you follow the instructions).*
- Dry-clean mildewed clothes and shampoo carpets.

The only lasting cure for severe mould is to get rid of the source of the damp.

REDUCING THE RISK OF MILDEW

- It is important to allow air to circulate around your clothes - don't overfill your wardrobe or drawers.
- Keep small gaps in between items of furniture and walls.

OTHER CAUSES OF DAMP

If damp patches on walls leave a 'tidemark' this may be a sign of:

- Leaking or blocked gutters
- A leaking roof, caused by missing tiles or slates.
- Rubbish or soil piled against the wall, above the level of a damp-proof course
- Internal water leaks

KEEPING YOUR HOME AT A CONSTANT TEMPERATURE HELPS TO COMBAT CONDENSATION

- Keeping the heating on low all day in cold weather will help control condensation. This this can be costly so keep a close check on any gas and electricity meters.
- If you don't have heating in every room, keep the doors of unheated rooms open.
- If you need to increase the temperature in your home, try using economical electric panel heaters or oil filled radiators, rather than convector heaters.

To report repair or maintenance issues or concerns, please contact the diocesan Property Team;

T: 01273 859705 or E: property@abdiocese.org.uk

www.abdiocese.org.uk

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