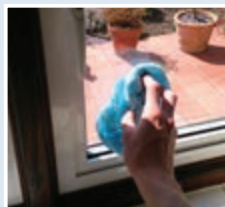


# Damp Condensation and Mould

[thurrock.gov.uk/damp-and-mould](http://thurrock.gov.uk/damp-and-mould)



# Is your property affected by condensation or damp? If so, does your home have mould problems?

Condensation is often mistaken for damp, but they are very different. Condensation is produced by normal every day activities like cooking, bathing or showering.

Damp is caused by a defect in the structure of your home. Such defects include leaking pipes and sinks or slates missing from roofs.

Even though condensation and damp are different, the end result is the same: you are likely to have problems with mould unless action is taken to remove the cause.

That is why it is important to know how to reduce or eliminate condensation and damp.

## Condensation - What to look out for

All air contains water vapour and when it meets a cold surface it becomes liquid - producing what we call condensation.

This means that the more water vapour there is and the colder the surface it lands on, the more condensation will be produced. You may notice in your own home that your windows are misted up or there are pools of water on your window sills after a cold night.

Condensation can also be found on north facing walls, in corners, cupboards and behind furniture or other work surfaces. In other words, it likes areas where the air does not move around much.

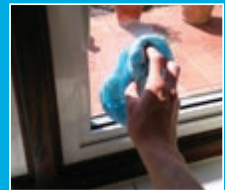
## How you can help to reduce condensation and mould problems in your home



If your windows are misted or wet



Improve air flow by leaving trickle vents open on all windows or leave windows open (if safe)



Wipe down windows daily with a soft dry cloth



Leave a gap between furniture and walls. Do not store items directly against walls.



Keep rooms at a low background heat in cold weather.



Improve air flow by opening the doors of cupboards and wardrobes



Close kitchen door and ensure extractor fan is on when cooking.



Hang washing outdoors when possible.

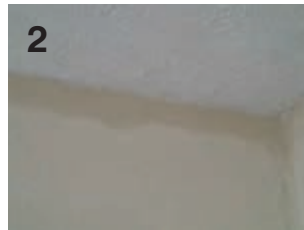


Close bathroom door when in use. If you have one, make sure the extractor fan is on.

## Damp-What to look out for

Damp caused by problems such as water leaks or penetrating damp coming from outside usually results in a more defined damp stain. Other signs of trouble include:

- 1 **Rising damp:** Caused by water rising from the ground, usually visible as a tide mark up to 1000mm (40 inches).
- 2 **Penetrating damp:** Affects external-facing walls and ceilings and is usually caused by an external defect such as leaking gutters, roofs etc. This is usually accompanied by a 'damp patch' which looks and feels damp.



If your home suffers from rising or penetrating damp, repairs will need to be carried out before you see any improvement in problems with mould.

## Getting help

You should contact our repairs service if you are concerned about damp or mould.

See [thurrock.gov.uk/damp-and-mould](http://thurrock.gov.uk/damp-and-mould)

# Mould growth from condensation or damp

Mould can grow as a result of condensation or damp. Mould spores are all around us but they become visible when they land on a surface and are left to grow and spread.



## Removing Mould in Your Home

If your home suffers with mould, it is more likely that it is as a result of condensation. You can get rid of it by washing down the affected surfaces with bleach solutions that are widely available in supermarkets and DIY stores.

You can also buy special paints that are more resistant to mould, but the only permanent cure is to reduce the levels of condensation and following the advice in this leaflet will help to achieve this.

## What we are doing

As part of our five-year Transforming Homes programme we are improving properties that have underlying or long-standing problems with damp, condensation and mould.

### **There are three stages in this process:**

- Survey stage – a survey of the whole property, which includes a check for damp and condensation
- Specialist survey stage – a full survey by a specialist who can recommend how best to deal with damp
- works stage – remedial work and monitoring by a qualified team.

### **We aim to eradicate damp, or reduce condensation to stop mould re-growing. Achieving this may include:**

- Upgrading central heating, insulation, windows or external doors
- Providing draught proofing or extractor fans
- Installing trickle vents and/or airbricks
- Rendering external walls
- Repairing or renewing roofs and gutters
- Injecting chemicals to the damp proof course
- Re-plastering internal walls
- Treating with fungicide.