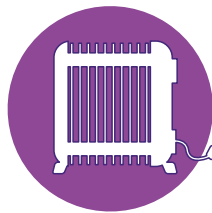


DAMP AND MOULD

Spotlight on damp and mould in your home

Private
Tenants
Edition



Hull
City Council

01482 300 300
hull.gov.uk

Private Tenants Edition

Spotlight on damp and mould in your home



Many of our daily activities such as cooking, washing, drying clothes indoors and even just breathing will create moisture in the home.

Sometimes it builds up as condensation which can cause windows to mist and lead to damp patches of black mould spores growing on walls, ceilings, window frames, furniture, curtains and clothes. This damp atmosphere is not only unpleasant and worrying, but it can also affect people's health, especially if they suffer with respiratory problems.

This document has been produced to give you general advice. You should always contact your landlord or the landlord's letting agent if you have damp or mould in your home.

Common causes of mould growth in buildings

- not enough ventilation, or too much ventilation
- insufficient heating
- moisture settling on cold surfaces, such as windows.

Top tips for avoiding condensation in your home

- try to make sure your home is heated adequately
- ventilate when you can. Open windows, keep air vents clear or use the trickle vents at the top of your window (where available) and use the extractor fans (where fitted) when cooking or having a bath or shower. Open windows to air your bedrooms. Close the bathroom door during and after bathing/showering to prevent the moisture going into other rooms
- when you dry clothes inside, the equivalent of nine pints of water is added to the air inside your home. If possible dry washing outside when the weather permits and if you are unable to do so help this moisture to escape by opening a window or by using extractor fans if fitted in your home
- when cooking, put lids on pans, use a cooker hood extractor if you have one fitted and open windows to help minimise airborne moisture by allowing steam to escape
- avoid if possible, having nonessential things in your home which produce moisture, for example, uncovered fish tanks
- wipe down surfaces where moisture settles, such as windows, mirrors, ceramic tiles or cold external walls
- leave a clear gap of at least a centimetre between furniture and walls and don't overfill your drawers with clothes to enable air to circulate and prevent mould growth on furniture and household items
- some house plants with hairy or waxy leaves and thick stems. such as aloe, palms, and yuccas, can help reduce humidity by catching and keeping water from the air.

How to deal with mould already in your home

- don't brush or use a vacuum cleaner to try and get rid of damp and mould. Mould is a living organism and when disturbed may potentially cause breathing problems.
- if you attempt to get rid of it yourself, protect yourself by wearing a protective mask (not a paper disposable Covid-19 mask) covering your nose and mouth, wearing rubber gloves and goggles
- you can kill mould by wiping down affected areas with a fungicidal wash. Follow the manufacturers instructions. Do not use bleach or washing up liquid
- mildewed clothes should be dry cleaned or washed on as high temperature possible for the type of material. If you can, dry them outside because sunlight is good for killing mildew. Shampoo any affected carpets
- after treatment, do what you can to reduce condensation to restrict new mould growth
- also, after the damp has been treated, redecorate using a good quality fungicidal paint to help prevent mould recurring (note: the fungicidal paint will not be effective if covered with ordinary paints or wallpaper)
- keep windows and doors closed when the heating is on, then when it's off open the trickle vents on the windows or open windows slightly or for a period of time to prevent condensation and mould forming
- close curtains and blinds when it gets dark to keep in the heat





Penetrating damp and rising damp are different

Penetrating and rising damp is different to condensation dampness. It usually occurs when a structural fault in the buildings lets water in from outside, resulting in a wet patch (without any mould growth). If there is a problem with the home's damp proof course you might get rising damp, which creates a 'tide mark' on the walls. This does not necessarily mean that you will not also have condensation mould which may be caused or made worse by the water getting into your home.

If you think you have either rising damp or penetrating damp in your home, contact your landlord or the landlords letting agent.

Worried about heating your home?

We know that many people are worried about heating their homes and staying warm. However, making sure your home is warm will help to reduce the risk of damp and mould.

Please don't be scared to ask for help - we have lots of helpful information. Our Warm Homes Team provide an impartial fuel poverty advice service to help you reduce costs of keeping warm and well at home. To make a referral for yourself please contact

WarmHomesTeam@hullcc.gov.uk

Top tips to help reduce the risk of condensation and cut the cost of keeping warm:

- set radiator valves to the right temperature for individual rooms

rather than having them all at maximum heat. It's not advisable to turn any of them off, just set them at the minimum. It's better to have a continual low heat rather than shorter blasts of high heat

- Keep windows and doors closed when the heating is on.



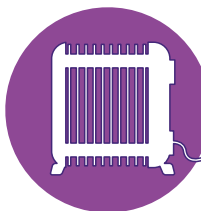
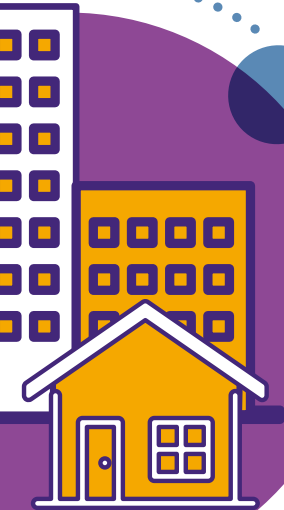


How can you report a concern?

The easiest way to report a damp/mould/condensation problem is via the

hull.gov.uk website alternatively you can call 300300. For more guidance on understanding and addressing the health risks of damp and mould in the home visit - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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This document can be made available in alternative formats including large print, digital, audio and Braille as well as in different languages. Call 01482 300 300.



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