

Identifying damp & mould

Damp and mould can be caused by any of the following:



Penetrating damp

Caused by rainwater penetrating through the external structure. This is usually recognisable by a well-defined damp patch.



Rising damp

Caused by damp rising from the ground moving up through a wall or floor. It will only affect basements and ground floor rooms and can often be visible by a tide mark low down on the wall.



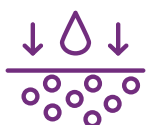
Defective plumbing

Such as leaking pipes, wastes or overflows. Plumbing defects usually look and feel damp to the touch and remain damp whatever the weather conditions.



Condensation

Created by high levels of moisture in the air. There are three factors which impact upon the amount of condensation a home produces:



How much moisture is created by daily living activities.



The temperature of the home and how cold or warm the air is.



How much air circulation there is within the home and how well the home is ventilated.

What you can do to keep your home healthy

Damp and mould can affect any home and, in the majority of cases, condensation is the main cause of issues that occur. If you're worried that damp and mould could appear in your home, here are some useful tips to help avoid it:



Cooking

Be sure to cover pans when cooking and don't boil kettles for longer than needed.



Keep a small window ajar

or use an extractor fan when cooking or bathing. 30 minutes should allow steam and moisture to clear.



Drying clothes

Put washing outdoors to dry if you can. If drying inside, put them in the bathroom with the door closed and window open/fan on. If using a tumble dryer make sure the vent goes outside (unless it's self-condensing).



Ventilation

Open your windows regularly and use any extractor fans you have. To stop moisture from spreading while cooking or bathing, keep the doors to the kitchen/bathroom closed and ventilate these rooms for a short time after.



Air flow

Avoid leaning large items of furniture or storing lots of items against walls, with no space for air to move, and leave enough room for air to circulate in cupboards and wardrobes.



Stop rooms from getting too cold

Very cold rooms can provide ideal conditions for mould to grow, so it's recommended you don't let the temperature in your home fall below 14°C.

This information is provided to sharing owners as advice and guidance only.

Day to day property maintenance and any treatment or remedial works to prevent or treat damp, mould or condensation is a sharing owner's responsibility.