

Useful contacts

Act On Energy is a local charity providing free help to residents on all home energy efficiency matters. They can offer advice to those on a low income or with a health condition or struggling with energy bills.

Call: 0800 988 2881

Visit: www.actonenergy.org.uk

Citizens Advice are a network of independent charities who offer confidential advice online, over the phone, and in person, for free. Contact Citizens Advice South Warwickshire for more information.

Call: 0300 330 1183 or 0800 144 8848

Visit: www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme helps our most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help. Contact us to enquire or apply for support.

Call: 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182



Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Private Sector Housing Team
Elizabeth House
Church Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6HX

Telephone: 01789 267575

Email: psht@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Website: www.stratford.gov.uk



Reducing Condensation

in your home

The most common type of damp is condensation which is caused by too much moisture in the air.

It occurs mostly during colder weather and in places where air circulation is poor.

Condensation facts

Condensation occurs mainly during cold weather and forms when warm moisture in the air comes into contact with cold surfaces like windows, mirrors and walls.

It is the most likely cause of black mould which commonly grows on walls and other cold surfaces such as tiles and sealants around sinks, baths and windows.

Factors in your home which cause condensation

Cooking, washing, drying clothes indoors, even breathing - all produce water vapour that can only be seen when tiny drops of water (condensation) appear on colder surfaces such as walls, windows, ceilings or mirrors.

Here is an idea of how much extra water you could be adding to the air in your home in just one day:

Two people in a house for 16 hours



 = one pint

A bath or shower



Drying clothes indoors



Cooking and use of a kettle



Washing dishes



How to keep a lid on condensation

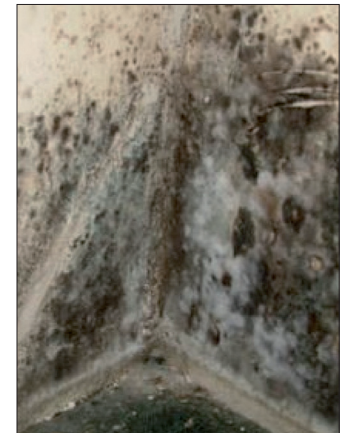
While condensation isn't the cause of all damp and mould, it is most common and also the easiest to manage. Using the tips below will help you find a balance between moisture, heating and ventilation which will help reduce condensation.

- Keep lids on pans when cooking.
- Close doors when cooking / showering and keep a window open in the room afterwards.
- Use an extractor fan in kitchens and bathrooms.
- Dry clothes outdoors where possible. Alternatively dry clothes in a bathroom with the door closed and window open.
- Increase ventilation where possible, by opening windows, not blocking air bricks and making use of trickle vents.
- Make sure tumble dryers are properly vented.
- Adequately heat your home in the colder months. A temperature of 18 - 21°C is ideal.
- Wipe down surfaces when condensation appears.
- Move furniture and large items away from external walls where possible to improve air circulation.

Treating black mould

Mould spores are invisible to the human eye but become noticeable when they meet a surface in which it can grow. If black mould is already present in your home, you should try some of the methods below as soon as possible.

- Wipe down affected areas with a suitable fungicidal wash or effective solution and follow the product instructions.
- After treatment use a fungicidal paint directly to the wall to help prevent the mould returning.
- Vacuum carpets and upholstery to remove the mould spores.



If the problem persists you should contact your landlord or housing provider.