

# Condensation and Mould



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## What is condensation?

Condensation occurs when warm, moist air, such as steam from a kettle, comes into contact with cool air or a cool surface, such as window panes.

Water droplets form when the cool air or surface reduces the temperature of the warm, moist air, turning it from gas to liquid.

Too much condensation can lead to mould growth on walls, furniture and clothes.

## Four key factors

**There are four main factors that cause condensation:**

- ▶ Too much moisture being produced in your home
- ▶ Not enough ventilation
- ▶ Cold surfaces
- ▶ The temperature of your home.

**Following these tips will help you control condensation and reduce mould in your home.**

## How to control condensation

**Here's what you can do to prevent condensation and mould:**

- ▶ Hang your washing outside to dry if possible, or in the bathroom with the door closed and the window open or extractor fan on.
- ▶ Proper ventilation - when you're using the kitchen or bathroom, remember to close the doors and ventilate the room. When these rooms are not in use, it's important to keep air circulating around your home.
- ▶ When you're filling the bath, close the bathroom door, run the cold water first and then add hot water. This can cut steam by up to 90%.
- ▶ Keep a gap between large pieces of furniture and the walls. Where possible place furniture against internal rather than external walls.
- ▶ Always cook with the pan lid on and turn the heat down once the water has boiled.

## How to deal with mould

If black mould does appear, treat the mould first, and then deal with the basic problem of condensation to stop the mould reappearing.

**To treat the mould:**

- ▶ Wipe down or spray walls and window frames with a fungicidal wash which carries a Health and Safety Executive approval number – available from most supermarkets. Please make sure you follow the instructions for safe use.
- ▶ After treatment, redecorate using fungicidal paint and a fungicidal-resistant wallpaper paste to help prevent mould recurring.





## Contact us

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