



Vert Housing
Specialist Supported Accommodation



Understanding Condensation and Black Mould

**How to deal
with
condensation**



About us & these booklets



This EasyRead booklet is part of a series of booklets about your housing.

We hope you find them useful.



We are Vert Housing, we have been providing specialist supported housing since 2021.

We are a not-for-profit company.

Company number 13218815



Office

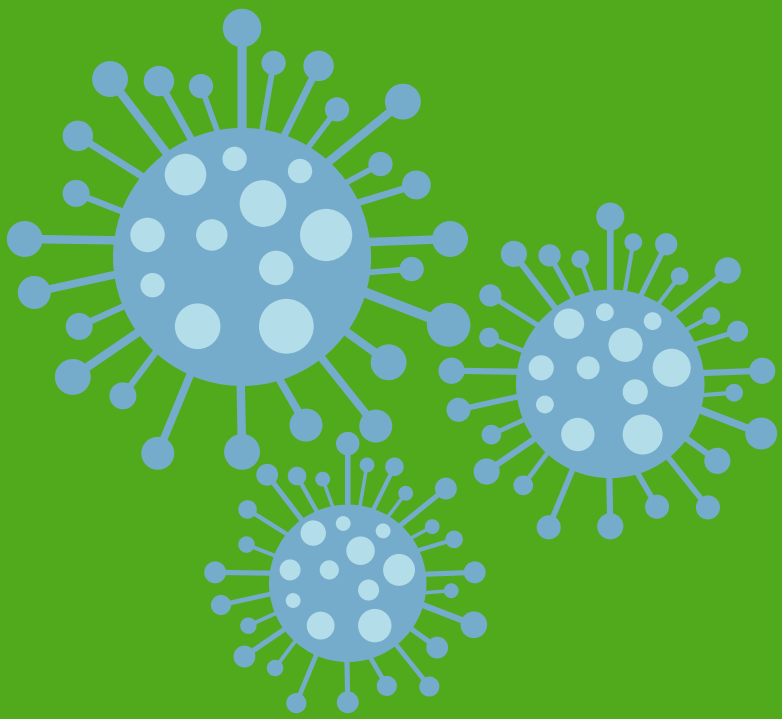
Your local office is Bakewell Court Office.

**It is open from 9.30am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday**

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions or need any more information.

Details about how to get in touch with us are at the back of this booklet.

Understanding Condensation and Black Mould



Condensation forms when warm, moist air meets a cold surface. The water vapour in the air turns back into liquid water, which can be seen on windows, walls, and other cold spots. Black mould, a type of fungus, thrives in damp, humid environments. It feeds on organic materials found in household dust, fabrics, and even plasterboard, and is often a direct result of untreated condensation. It can cause or worsen respiratory issues, allergies, and other health problems.

Why Condensation is a Problem in Autumn and Winter



During the autumn and winter months, the temperature difference between the inside of your home and the outside is greater. We tend to keep windows closed, use central heating more, and dry laundry indoors, all of which contribute to an increase in moisture in the air. This warm, humid air then condenses on cold surfaces like single-paned windows, exterior walls, or uninsulated ceilings, creating the perfect conditions for mould to grow.

A Step-by-Step Guide to Preventing Condensation and Black Mould



Step 1: Reduce Moisture Production

The first step is to tackle the sources of moisture in your home.

- **Ventilate When Cooking:** Use an extractor fan when cooking. If you don't have one, open a window to allow steam to escape. Consider using pan lids to reduce the amount of steam produced.
- **Manage Laundry:** Dry clothes outside whenever possible. If you must dry them indoors, use a tumble dryer vented to the outside or a dehumidifier to remove the moisture from the air. Avoid drying clothes on radiators, as this releases a lot of moisture and traps it in the room.
- **Properly Ventilate Bathrooms:** Use an extractor fan during and after a bath or shower for at least 15-20 minutes to remove the steam. Keep the bathroom door closed to prevent moist air from escaping into the rest of the house.
- **Check for Leaks:** Inspect your home for any leaks from pipes, roofs, or around window frames, as these can be a hidden source of moisture.

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Open windows



Do not block vents



Open trickle vents in windows

Step 2: Improve Ventilation

- Even if you reduce moisture production, good ventilation is key to allowing that moisture to escape.
- **Open Windows:** Open windows for a few minutes each day, even in winter. Opening them a small amount on opposite sides of the house for a "cross-breeze" can be very effective in refreshing the air.
- **Ventilation Gaps:** Make sure air bricks and trickle vents in your windows aren't blocked. They are designed to provide a continuous, low-level airflow.
- **Don't Block Airflow:** Avoid placing furniture directly against external walls. This creates a "cold spot" with no air circulation, which is a prime location for condensation and mould growth. A gap of a few inches is all you need.

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Keep heating at a consistent temperature



Make sure all rooms are adequately heated



Use a dehumidifier if needed

Step 3: Heat Your Home Efficiently

- Consistent heating helps keep the temperature of all surfaces above the dew point, which is the temperature at which condensation forms.
- Maintain a Consistent Temperature: It's more effective to keep your heating on at a low, consistent temperature than to have it on full blast for short periods. This prevents surfaces from getting cold enough to attract condensation.
- Target Cold Spots: Pay attention to rooms that are typically colder, such as bedrooms, and ensure they are adequately heated.
- Use a Dehumidifier: An electric dehumidifier can be an excellent tool for removing excess moisture from the air, especially in problem areas like a bedroom or a room where you dry laundry. This is a very effective, though not a cheap, solution.

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Remove water from windows and sills



Use white vinegar to remove mould patches



Wear PPE when removing mould

Step 4: Deal with Existing Condensation and Mould

- If you already have condensation or mould, it's important to clean it up safely.
- **Clean Surfaces:** Wipe down windows and sills daily to remove any standing water from condensation. Use a squeegee or a dry cloth.
- **Remove Mould:** For small patches of mould, use a mould-remover spray or a solution of water and white vinegar (a 1:1 mixture). Do not use bleach, as it can discolour surfaces and doesn't kill the mould's roots.
- **Use Proper Protection:** Always wear gloves and a face mask when cleaning mould to avoid inhaling spores.
- By following these steps, you can significantly reduce the amount of condensation in your home and prevent black mould from taking hold, ensuring a healthier living environment during the colder months. 🏠

How to get in touch with us



You can call our offices at any time of the day or night. If no one is there leave a message and we will get back to you.



**Our number is:
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