ncha

Keeping your home free from damp and mould

Condensation

There's always moisture in the air in your home even if you can't see it.

If the air becomes too cold or you create too much moisture (from cooking, bathing etc.) condensation will appear.

Condensation tends to form on cold surfaces or areas of little air movement in your home. This includes areas such as, windows, patio doors, corners of rooms and behind furniture - try and maintain a 50mm air gap behind furniture to allow good air flow.

Condensation is the main cause of damp and mould in homes. If it appears on windows or doors wipe it dry immediately to prevent mould forming. Follow the rest of the advice in this guide to reduce condensation.

Wipe up excess moisture: After a shower or bath, wipe down the tiles and the bath/shower to prevent that water from dispersing into the air. Keep the bathroom door closed and open the window after you shower – especially if your showers/baths last longer than 30mins.

If you see water collecting on walls and windows, wipe them down to prevent mould growing. If you are concerned about damp or mould in your home, please contact our NCHA team immediately for further advice and support.

Reducing condensation

When cooking food in saucepans always cover them with a lid to prevent excess moisture escaping into the air.
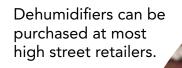
Where you can, dry your clothes outside. In colder or wetter weather try not to dry clothes directly on radiators as this can cause excess moisture. Drying clothes on a standing airer in one damp free room and opening the window, where safe to do so, will reduce the moisture in your home. If you plan to buy a tumble dryer, use an external vented one.

When running a bath, a way of getting rid of extra moisture is to put a small amount of cold water into the bath first (before adding the hot water).
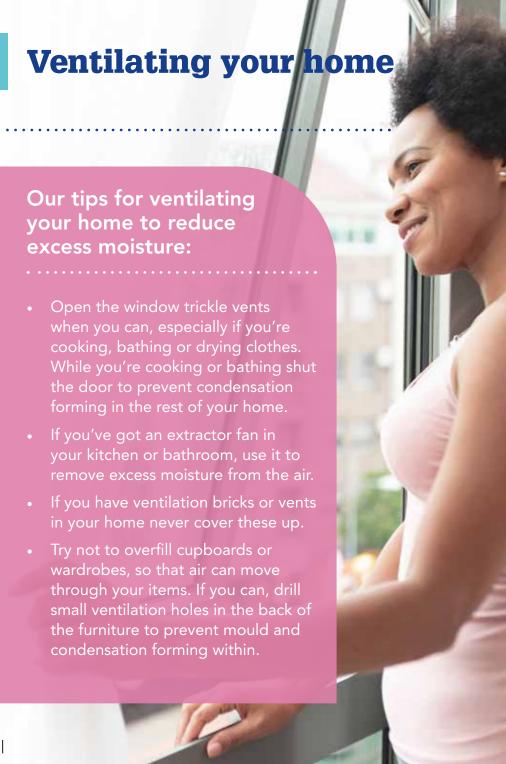
Using a dehumidifier

A dehumidifier is an electronic device that works by extracting the excess moisture you cannot see. It captures it in a container as water, which can then be emptied down the drain.

Dehumidifiers can be purchased at most high street retailers.

Ventilating your home

Our tips for ventilating your home to reduce excess moisture:

- Open the window trickle vents when you can, especially if you're cooking, bathing or drying clothes. While you're cooking or bathing shut the door to prevent condensation forming in the rest of your home.

- If you've got an extractor fan in your kitchen or bathroom, use it to remove excess moisture from the air.

- If you have ventilation bricks or vents in your home never cover these up.

- Try not to overfill cupboards or wardrobes, so that air can move through your items. If you can, drill small ventilation holes in the back of the furniture to prevent mould and condensation forming within.

Heating your home to reduce condensation

Keeping your home a little warmer can reduce condensation and mould in your home.

In cold weather it's best to keep all rooms on low background heating all day even when nobody's in, to stop condensation forming.

Insulating a loft is a great way of keeping your home much warmer whilst lowering your heating bills. We'll check the insulation in your home during a stock condition survey and increase it if required.

Try not to put furniture in front of radiators or leave a small gap in between them. This will help heat to circulate in your home rather than it being absorbed by furniture.

Dealing with mould

If your home already has a small amount of mould caused by condensation, it's a good idea to treat the mould first. After this, focus on dealing with reducing condensation in your home. This should stop the mould from reappearing.

To remove the mould we would recommend using an appropriate mould and mildew cleaner.

Wash and dry any mouldy clothes or fabrics and shampoo carpets.

After treating, use anti-mould paint on the area. Do not put ordinary paint or wallpaper on top of the mould paint.

Other causes of damp in your home

Condensation is not the only cause of damp. If you have damp and mould on your ceilings, near pipework or along the top of your skirting board, one of these issues may be the cause:

- Leaking pipes, waste or overflows

- Rain seeping through a damaged roof or guttering

- Damp due to damaged brickwork.

Report an issue

If you're concerned about damp or mould issues in your home, call our Customer Experience team on:

0800 013 8555
to book an inspection.

Contacting us

If you've still got a query after reading this booklet, feel free to get in touch with us.

You can contact us using the details below:

📞 **0800 013 8555**

@ **repairs@ncha.org.uk**

🌐 **www.ncha.org.uk**