

Don't let condensation and mould ruin your home

Information on how to manage and avoid this potential problem.

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Condensation is unsightly. Left untreated it will cause mould and damage to your property and possessions, leaving you to pick up the costs.

So what causes condensation in the first place?

There is always some moisture in the air, even if you cannot see it. Condensation happens when warm moist air in your house comes into contact with cold surfaces and forms water droplets.



What to do about mould

Where condensation appears, mould is likely to grow, particularly on cold external walls and ceilings. It can be treated by the careful use of a specialist mould remover – remember

if you are using this type of product you should always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Fungicidal paints and wall coverings are also available and can help prevent mould re-appearing.

How we can help you

Contact East Lothian Council's Contact Centre on **01875 824 311** and ask for the Repairs Team.

Condensation

You tend to notice condensation in some areas more than others such as around windows or on north facing walls and it is often found behind wardrobes or in cupboards.

Condensation is more common in the winter months. This is the time when surfaces are colder and can lead to unsightly mould growth.

You can help prevent condensation by:

- Making sure that your house is heated regularly
- Reducing the amount of moisture produced in your home
- Ventilating rooms, especially after cooking or having a bath or shower.

The following tips can help stop condensation affecting your home:

In the Kitchen

- keep the door closed and windows open when cooking, washing or drying clothes
- use an extractor fan if you have one until the steam has cleared
- keep a lid on pots and don't cook longer than needed
- if you use a tumble dryer (unless it's a condenser dryer) be sure it is ventilated to the outside



In the Bathroom

- keep the door closed and open the window after bathing, until the bathroom dries off
- use an extractor fan to clear the steam – the fan should be left to run for a minimum of 20 minutes
- wipe down surfaces where condensation has collected, such as cisterns, windows, mirrors and tiled surfaces



Heating and Ventilation

- wipe down windows and sills in winter mornings and wring out the cloth
- try to ventilate your rooms whenever possible
- try to heat all rooms at least partially, (if you are out of the house during the day you could time the heating to come on). It is better to have a low heat for a long period than a lot of heat for a short time
- keep trickle vents open
- don't use bottled gas or paraffin heaters as these put a pint of water in the air for every pint of fuel burned

Drying clothes indoors – where does all the water go?

- dry clothes outside as much as possible but if you have to dry them indoors allow more ventilation – or dry them in the kitchen area and leave the extractor fan running.
- try to avoid drying clothes on radiators.
- don't use an unventilated airing cupboard for drying clothes as this will encourage mould growth.
- when storing clothes, towels and bedding, make sure that there is enough space at the back of the shelves to allow a flow of air.



Some condensation facts

- The average household can produce up to 26 pints (12 litres) of water through condensation in a day.
- Drying clothes indoors can add 9 pints (5.13 litres) of moisture to the air.
- In most homes, around 80% of the condensation is produced in the kitchen.
- Showers produce more condensation than baths.
- The cost to run an extractor fan is minimal when compared to the cost of repairing the damage caused by condensation.

Making a difference **together**

For more information please contact your Local Housing Office on 01620 827827.

www.eastlothian.gov.uk

www.scotland.gov.uk



Versions of this leaflet can be supplied in Braille, large print, audiotape or in your own language. Please phone the Public Information Officer on 01620 827199