

Condensation



Catalyst
Housing

**How to prevent and deal
with condensation**

Condensation

Condensation starts as moisture in the air. It's usually produced by cooking, showering/bathing or drying clothes indoors. If left unchecked, it can become a serious problem.

How condensation forms

Condensation happens when moisture in warm air touches a cold surface.

The air in our homes always has moisture in it, even though we can't see it. The warmer the air, the more moisture there is. When the warm moist air hits a cool surface, such as a wall, mirror or window, the moisture condenses (becomes liquid).

Why is condensation a problem?

Condensation is the most common cause of damp and mould in buildings. It can lead to running water on windows and walls which can cause damp. Damp housing is unhealthy, smelly and encourages the growth of mould and mites. This can increase the risk of illness. Mould can leave stains on walls and furnishings and cause wooden windows to rot.

How to prevent condensation

There are three ways to reduce condensation.

1. Produce less moisture

You can produce less moisture by:

- Covering pans when cooking and turning kettles off as soon as they boil
- Drying washing outdoors where possible or in a room with the door closed and a window open
- Opening kitchen and bathroom windows when cooking or washing to let the steam out
- Running the vent from your tumble dryer to the outside, unless it is the self-condensing type
- Avoiding the use of bottled gas heaters as they produce a lot of moisture
- Fitting lids to fish tanks as evaporation of water from these can be high



All homes suffer from condensation from time to time, but severe condensation is common in cold weather and in older properties.

2. Increase ventilation

One of the main causes of condensation is when there is not enough ventilation. You can increase ventilation by:

- Keeping a small window open for a short time each day to allow a change of air
- Closing kitchen and bathroom doors when in use and opening a window to stop steam going into other rooms
- Installing a small extractor fan in the kitchen or bathroom to remove moisture – these are the two rooms most responsible for condensation
- Making sure air bricks in walls are not sealed

3. Keep your home warm and reduce cold spots

You can keep your home warm and reduce cold spots by:

- Heating your home at a low constant temperature during cold weather rather than heating one room to a high temperature. Remember that condensation affects rooms you are not heating
- Keeping radiators clear to allow warm air to circulate
- Reducing draughts from windows and doors as much as you can



Condensation tends to affect walls behind large pieces of furniture, the corners of rooms where there is less airflow, colder outside walls, windows, kitchens and bathrooms.

Signs of condensation include water and mould collecting on ceilings, walls and windows.

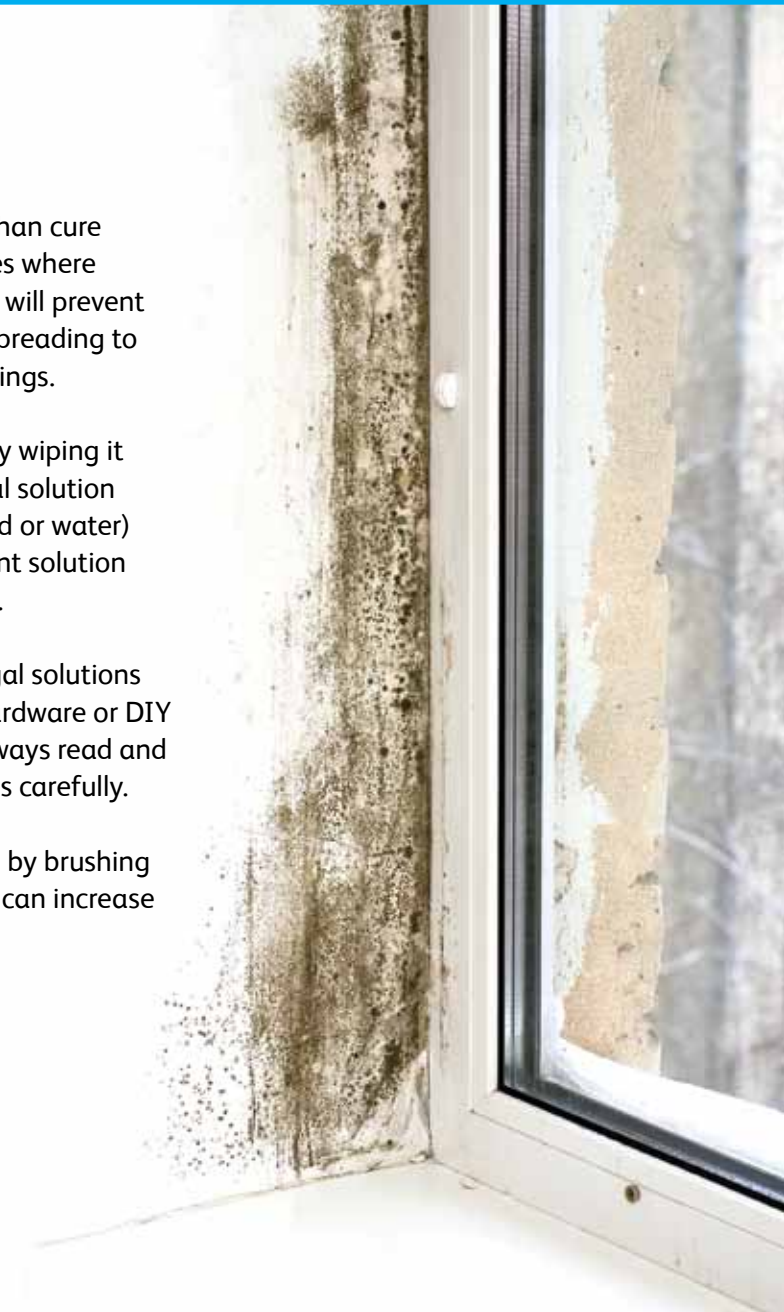
Treating mould

Prevention is better than cure so wipe down surfaces where moisture settles. This will prevent mould forming and spreading to your personal belongings.

Remove any mould by wiping it off with an antifungal solution (not washing-up liquid or water) and applying a sealant solution to the wall or surface.

You can buy antifungal solutions and sealants from hardware or DIY stores. You should always read and follow the instructions carefully.

Do not disturb mould by brushing or vacuuming it. This can increase the risk of illness.





Other damp problems

Some damp may cause a tidemark. Typical causes of this include leaking pipes or waste pipes, leaking roofs, blocked gutters, leaking window frames or rising damp.

If this happens in your home, please report it to us. We can then tackle the issue and make sure your home is not damaged.

Still having problems?

If you have tried these tips and your home still has condensation, please call our repairs team on **0300 456 2099** if you live in London or **0300 456 2090** if you live outside London.

We will visit your home to assess the problem and where possible work with you to put it right.



If you need any of this information in large print, Braille, on audio-tape or explained in your own language, please contact us on the number below.

Arabic

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على أي جزء من هذه المعلومات مطبوعًا بأحرف كبيرة أو بطريقة برايل أو مسجلًا على اسطوانة مدمجة أو شريط صوتي أو مشروحًا باللغة التي تتحدثها، يرجى الاتصال بنا على الرقم الموضح أدناه.

Hindi

अगर आप इस जानकारी के किसी भी हिस्से को ब्रेल, सीडी, ऑडियो टेप में चाहते हैं या अपनी भाषा में समझना चाहते हैं, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए नम्बर पर हमसे सम्पर्क करें।

Portuguese

Se necessitar de parte desta informação em caracteres aumentados, em Braille, em CD, cassette áudio ou apresentada no seu idioma, por favor contacte-nos, através do telefone abaixo indicado.

Somali

Haddaad u baahan tahay warkan afkaaga-hooyo, afka loogu talagalay dadka aan arki karaan – afka faraha ama CD-ga ama ajeladda rekorka nala xirir. Namberkan isticmaal.

Gujarati

જો તમારે કોઈ પણ ભાગની આ માહિતી શ્રેઈલ, સીડી ઉપર, ઑડિયો ટેપ અથવા તમારી પોતાની ભાષામાં સમજી શકો તેની જરૂર હોય તો નીચે જણાવેલ નંબર ઉપર અમારો સંપર્ક કરો.

Polish

Jeżeli potrzebujesz aby całość lub część tego tekstu były przedstawione większą czcionką, w języku Braille'a, na nośniku CD, na kasecie audio lub zostały przetłumaczone na Twój język ojczysty, prosimy o kontakt pod numerem podanym niżej.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਬ੍ਰੇਲ, ਸੀਡੀ, ਆੱਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਜਾਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮਝਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Urdu

ان معلومات کے کسی حصہ کی اگر آپ کو بریل، سی ڈی، آڈیو ٹیپ یا اپنی زبان میں وضاحت کی ضرورت ہو تو، براہ کرم ہم سے نیچے دیے گئے نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔

0300 456 2099

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Better Service.
Better Future.**



CHL004-17 Condensation 11/12

Catalyst is one of the leading housing associations in London and the South East. We aim to be a catalyst for change and improvement wherever we work.



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(London customers)

Call: **0300 456 2090**
(South East customers)

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