

Dealing with Damp and Mould

During the winter months damp and condensation can be a common problem among households. Within this leaflet you will find information and advice on how to identify and reduce condensation as well as treating mould.



Condensation is caused by water vapor or moisture from inside the home coming into contact with a colder surface, such as a window or wall. It then condenses, running down the cold surface as water droplets.

The best way to deal with mould is to remove it from the walls using a special fungicidal wash which should be used in line with the manufacturer's instructions.



Rising damp is caused by a failed or bridged damp proof course. This allows moisture in the ground to rise up through the ground floor walls of your home, sometimes to a height of one metre. You can usually identify rising damp because it is often associated with a tide mark at the edge of the area of damp caused by salt deposits.

Types of Dampness

- Condensation
- Penetrating Damp
- Defective Plumbing
- Rising Damp

Did You Know?

A family of four can add moisture to the air equivalent to 30 to 40 litres of water a week just by breathing.

Showering, cooking, bathing and washing can add 15 to 20 litres a week.

Drying clothes indoors can add 10 to 15 litres a week.

Contact HEART via email to heart@e-lindsey.gov.uk or by phone on 01507 613189.



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Penetrating Damp will usually be found on external walls or in the case of roof leaks, on ceilings. It only appears because of a defect outside the home which allows water to pass from the outside to the inner surfaces. Penetrating damp is far more noticeable after periods of rainfall.

Areas prone to condensation

The following areas are particularly prone to condensation:

- Cold surfaces such as mirrors, windows and window frames
- Kitchens and bathrooms where a lot of steam is created
- External walls, walls of unheated rooms and cold corners of rooms
- Wardrobes/cupboards and behind furniture against an external wall and a lack of ventilation



Reducing Condensation

Heating: Condensation is most likely to be a problem in homes that are underheated. Try to keep temperatures in all rooms to above 15°C as this will reduce condensation forming on external walls.

Ventilation: Condensation will occur less if you allow air to circulate freely. Open windows slightly or use the trickle vents that can be found on more modern windows.

Produce Less Moisture: Dry clothes outside if possible, cover pans when cooking, vent tumble driers to the outside and do not use gas bottle or paraffin heaters.

Insulation: Insulating your home will warm the surface area of walls, ceilings and windows. It will also help increase the temperature of your home and reduce energy bills.

The Home Energy Advice and Retrofit Team (HEART) are here to support residents who may otherwise struggle to access help and advice through in-person support on their doorsteps to help tackle fuel poverty, live more comfortably in their homes and save money on their energy bills.



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