

Energy advice on...

# Condensation – Prevention and Cure



## What is condensation?

Air holds a certain amount of water vapour and the warmer the air, the more it holds. Once the air reaches a cold area, the water vapour turns into droplets of water ie condensation. Areas of the home most prone to condensation are windows, external walls and bathrooms. Showers or baths, cooking, drying clothes all create huge amounts of condensation.



## How do you know if you've got it?

The tell-tale sign is black mould appearing on surfaces. Black mould on walls or behind wardrobes is a clear indication that condensation has been present for some time.

## What can you do about it?

Prevention is better than cure so reduce condensation by minimising the amount of moisture in the air and increasing ventilation. The following are our top condensation-busting tips:

- Make sure washing machines or tumble dryers are adequately vented and extractor fans are working.
- Try not to dry clothes indoors especially on radiators.
- Keep doors closed when showering or cooking.





- Always put lids on pots and don't boil kettles for longer than necessary.
- Open windows, even for a short time each day, to increase air flow and vent steam away.
- Check rooms prone to condensation regularly for mould growth and take any necessary action – this is especially important if you have turned down the heating in unused rooms to save on fuel costs. It may be necessary to restore low level heating for a while, as well as increasing ventilation.
- Don't create condensation traps eg wardrobes tight up against cold, external walls or curtains that are permanently closed.

## Cleaning mould

Mould can be cleaned off with a fungicidal wash and the affected area left to dry. Clean once more and leave to dry. This will kill the mould spores but it will not take away the staining. After treatment, redecorate using fungicidal paint or wallpaper paste to help prevent mould recurring.

For free energy advice and to arrange a home visit, please call our energy advisers, **Angela** or **Evelyn**, on...**Freephone 0808 202 6565**

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