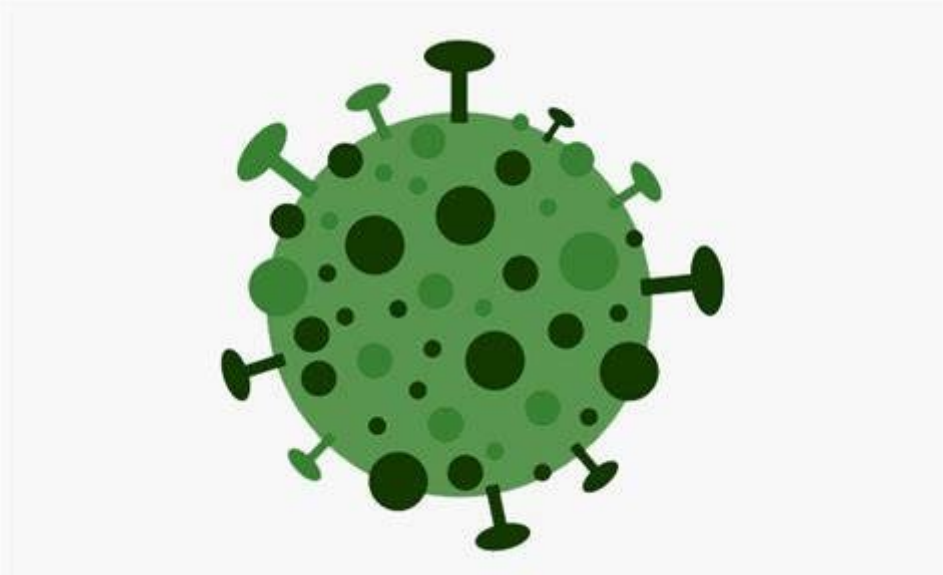
SHROPSHIRE
RURAL HOUSING
ASSOCIATION

DAMP, CONDENSATION & MOULD



WHAT IS MOULD?

Houses are becoming more airtight as we try to make our homes more energy efficient. Without a regular change of air within your home condensation and mould problems start to arise which can cause problems to your health and home

Mould and damp are caused by excess moisture. This moisture can be caused by leaking pipes, rising damp or rain seeping in because of damage to the roof or around window frames. Often drying laundry on a clothes horse can produce excess moisture. If you have mould or damp its important to find out why you have excess moisture in your home, it is important to manage the moisture produced by everyday living, there may also be maintenance needed which could be a factor. SRHA can help to identify these causes and agree an action plan to resolve the problems.

Condensation

Condensation can cause mould to form in your home. The mould and its spores carry the musty smell that is often associated with a damp house. It is the most common form of damp in rented properties.

AREAS PRONE TO CONDENSATION

The following areas are particularly prone to condensation:

1. Cold surfaces such as mirrors, windows and window frames
2. Kitchens and bathroom where a lot of steam is created
3. External walls, walls of unheated rooms and cold corners of rooms
4. Wardrobes/cupboards and behind furniture against an external wall and where there is a lack of ventilation

DEALING WITH DAMP & CONDENSATION

During the colder months condensation becomes a major problem in many British homes, regardless of the age of the property.

It is caused when warm moist air hits a cold surface such as a window or external wall and condenses running down the cold surface as water droplets. If left, this can develop into black mould which looks and smells bad and can cause health problems as well as damage to clothes, furniture, books, shoes and decorations.

Controlling ventilation and air circulation around the home is very important in the prevention of condensation because this allows moisture filled air to escape to the outside, preventing future problems inside your home.

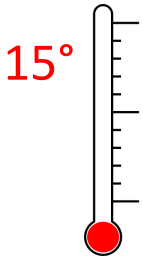
DID YOU KNOW?

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

Showering, cooking, bathing and washing can add 15-20 litres of water a week!

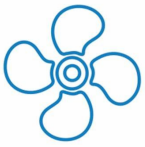
REDUCING CONDENSATION

Turn your heating on



Try to keep temperatures in all rooms to above 15°C as this will reduce condensation forming on external walls.

Use an extractor fan if you have one



If you have an extractor fan, make sure its running whilst you're having a bath or shower. If you have an extractor fan in the kitchen—use it!

Wipe away condensation

Wipe down windows/mirrors/tiles/shower doors with a window squeegee and mop up the moisture with an absorbent cloth which can be wrung out in the sink.

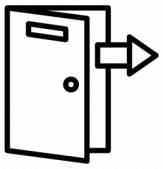
Insulation

Insulating your home will help warm the surface temperature of the walls, ceilings and windows and generally increase the temperature of the home. You could lay thick carpet with a good thermal underlay or hang thick heavy lined curtains during the winter to help keep the room warm.

Air your property regularly

Condensation will occur less if you allow air to circulate freely. Make sure vents and airbricks are not covered or obstructed. If you have trickle vents, open these!

Don't put furniture, including bed, against any external walls and try to leave a gap between the wall and furniture to allow airflow.



Keep doors closed

Close internal doors whilst cooking or showering and open a window.

Dry washing outside whenever possible

Don't dry clothes on radiators. If you don't have a tumble dryer, place clothes on a drying rack or hang on a curtain pole in a room where a window can be opened slightly and keep the door closed.

Reduce steam

Steam is a common cause of condensation. To reduce steam in the bathroom, taker shorter and cooler showers. When running a bath put the cold water in first; this results in significantly less condensation.

In the kitchen, put lids on pans and only boil as much water as you need in a kettle. These tips will both reduce steam and save money!