

Further information can be obtained from:-

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**There is a useful web link below if you wish to view a
short film on how to deal with condensation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oj99RNY55Es>

ALBYN HOUSING SOCIETY LTD

Condensation

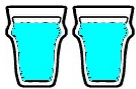


How much moisture is produced by normal household activities?



Clothes Washing

1 Pint



Bath

2 Pints



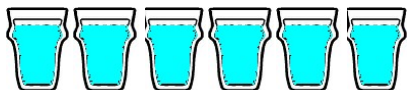
4 People sleeping for 8 hours

3 Pints



Paraffin Heater on for 4 hours

3 Pints



Cooking by Gas for 3 hours

6 Pints



Clothes Drying

10 Pints

(6lbs of spun washing in an unvented tumble drier)

Insulation

Insulation is important in the treatment of condensation in three ways:

- It warms up the surface of walls, ceiling and windows removing cold surfaces for the vapour to condense on to.
- It generally warms up the home.
- It can reduce heating bills, enabling people to heat their homes to a higher standard.

Dealing with mould

For some people the microscopic spores produced by the black mould are a health risk. Remove mould using a fungicide solution ensuring you follow the instructions on the container and adhere to any warnings printed on the packaging. If mould is particularly bad, wear a facemask when removing it. The cleaned area may be over-painted with fungicide paint, or covered with special wallpaper paste before redecoration. But unless the cause of the problem is treated, the mould will return in due course.

The most effective way to eradicate mould in the long-term is to eliminate the source of water or to reduce the risk of condensation on surfaces.

Fungicidal washes & fungicidal paints

Cleaning with fungicidal washes can be effective. They can also be considered as a temporary measure pending lasting improvements. Some fungicidal paints now available may be capable of giving prolonged control and can be of value for redecoration. Indeed where damp conditions are slight or intermittent fungicidal paints may give an adequate period of protection. Fungicidal paints differ in effectiveness especially if conditions have not been improved to reduce dampness.

In kitchens and bathrooms, extractor fans are a very good idea. Humidistat ventilators switch themselves on and off according to the moisture in the air.

Other measures for the kitchen and bathroom include:

Opening windows when moisture is being produced, and closing the internal doors – which should be draught proofed – to prevent the moisture spreading to the rest of the house. Do not draught proof kitchen and bathroom windows.

If condensation is a problem, care must be taken when draught-proofing the home. Too much ventilation, (as draughts) can make condensation worse by making homes harder to heat. But if you seal off all the draughts then moist air cannot escape. If condensation is a problem and you want to draught proof your home, then it is worthwhile seeking further professional advice.

Never Seal Openings or vents in a room that houses a gas or solid fuel fire always Seek Advice.

Heating

Condensation is most likely to be a problem in the home that is under-heated. The home may be unheated due to an inadequate heating system, or not having enough money to heat the home. If you cannot install or use a heating system, you may opt for individual fire/heaters. Of these, bottle gas and paraffin heaters should be avoided. They are likely to make any condensation problem worse. Remember also that on-peak electricity is expensive, and it may be false economy to switch off your central heating and use electric bar fires or fan heaters instead.

Condensation

Condensation affects millions of homes in the UK. It is closely related to how well the home is heated, ventilated, insulated and draught-proofed, and remedies often include improvements in heating and insulation, although there are simple things you can do to help cut down the problem.

Condensation can cause staining and mould growth, and can severely damage wall surfaces, window frames as well as furniture and clothes. The mould associated with severe condensation problems can also be a health risk.

Condensation, like all forms of dampness, is a particular problem because damp homes are harder to heat.

It is important to realise that condensation can occur in rooms some distance away from the source of moisture production. Warm moist air naturally moves to colder areas and will condense on cold surfaces. For example, a common problem in homes that are not centrally heated is moisture-laden air moves to unheated rooms (often bedrooms) and causes condensation.

What is condensation?

All air contains a certain amount of invisible water vapour, and warm air can 'carry' more water vapour. If warm air comes into contact with a cold surface the air 'gives up' its water as droplets on the surface. If you wear glasses you will know what happens when you come into a warm house from the cold outside. The same effect can be seen on a bathroom mirror when you have a hot bath; warm moisture-laden air chills on contact with the cold surface. This process can occur anywhere in the home.

Why is condensation a problem?

- Condensation causes staining and mould growth and can damage wallpaper, wall surfaces, window frames as well as furniture and clothing.
- The black mould that is a familiar sight when there are severe condensation problems can cause ill health in some people.
- Condensation, like all other forms of dampness, makes houses difficult to keep warm. The reason being wet building materials lose heat more quickly than dry ones and also because some of the heat input is being used to dry out the house.

Where do you find condensation?

- Cold surfaces such as mirrors, single glazed windows and metal framed windows.
- Kitchens and bathrooms (where moist air is produced through washing, cooking etc).
- Walls of unheated rooms.
- Cold corners of rooms.
- Wardrobes, cupboards (particularly built-in cupboards and behind furniture against an outside wall).

What can be done to reduce the risk of condensation?

To reduce condensation one or more of the following factors should be considered:

- Reducing moisture production
- Ventilation
- Heating
- Insulation

Reducing moisture production

Moisture is produced in the course of they day-to-day activities, but there are still a number of steps that can be taken to reduce moisture production:

- Keep lids on saucepans when cooking.
- Clothes should not be left to soak to for longer than necessary.
- Tumble dryers should be vented to the outside.
- Bottle gas and paraffin heaters should be avoided.
- If producing steam in the kitchen or bathroom, open the window and close the door. (Draught strip bathroom and kitchen's interior doors).
- Cupboards and wardrobes will be less prone to condensation if doors are left open from time to time, or if louvre doors are fitted.
- Clothes should always be thoroughly dried before being put into a wardrobe.

Ventilation

If there is not enough ventilation, moist air will not be able to escape. However, too much ventilation makes a house draughty. Getting the balance right can be difficult!

Background ventilation can be given by air bricks and ventilators. Some of these are adjustable – but they should never be blocked, or by trickle ventilators fitted to window frames. If condensation is occurring against furniture (commonly a bed if pushed against an outside wall, or a sofa in a bay window), move the furniture away from the wall and make sure air can circulate around the cold area.