

What is Condensation?

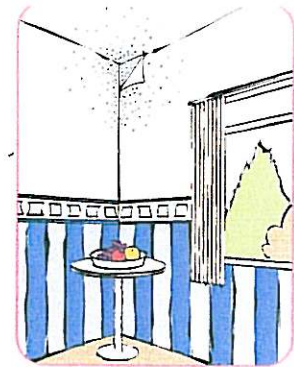
HOW

What is Condensation?

Simply **warm** moist air condensing on a **cold surface**.

Factors that will cause condensation:

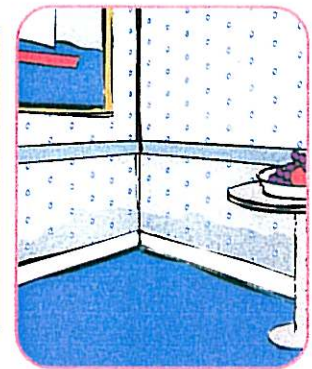
- ▶ Too much moisture being produced in your home.
- ▶ Insufficient ventilation.
- ▶ Cold surfaces.
- ▶ The temperature of your home.



You need to look at all these factors to significantly lessen condensation.

Condensation will normally be found:

- ▶ **Behind wardrobes and cupboards.**
- ▶ **Corners of rooms.**
- ▶ **On or near windows.**



Dampness caused by excessive Condensation can lead to:

- ▶ **Mildew on clothes, furniture and curtains.**
- ▶ **Mould on walls, furniture and wallpaper.**
- ▶ **Rotten window frames.**

What is Mould?

- ▶ **Moulds are naturally occurring fungi, which are present in the air. The spores are invisible under normal circumstances, but will grow indoors when the spores land on wet or damp surfaces.**

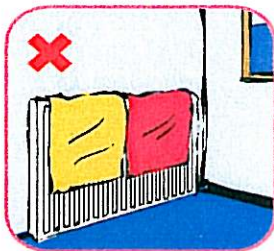
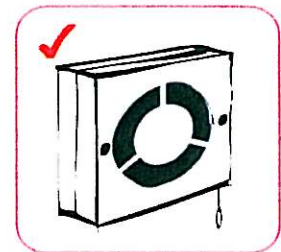
Are Moulds dangerous to health?

- ▶ **Moulds are not usually a problem indoors. Unless they start growing on wet surfaces.**
- ▶ **Moulds have a potential to cause health problems.**
- ▶ **Moulds can cause allergic reactions i.e. hay fever type symptoms or dermatitis (skin rash). Moulds can cause asthma attacks in people with asthma or are allergic to moulds.**
- ▶ **Moisture control is the key to mould control– act quickly to remove.**

How can I control condensation in my home?

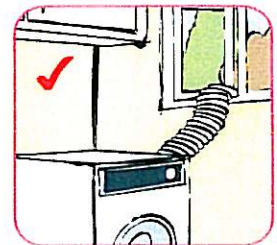
You need to control moisture in the air.

- ▶ Ensure bathroom and kitchen fans are operative and that they are always on when the room is in use.



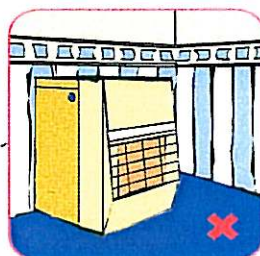
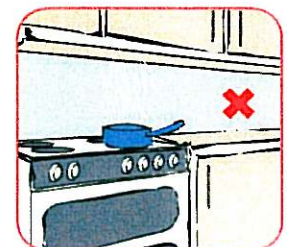
- ▶ Avoid drying clothes on or in front of a radiator.

- ▶ Ensure tumble dryers vent to outside air.



- ▶ Hang washing outside if possible.

- ▶ Cook with pan lids on, use minimal water for cooking.



- ▶ Never use bottled gas heaters; they can produce up to 8 pints of water per average size cylinder.

- ▶ Increase roof insulation if you can.



My house has been renovated, why do I have condensation?

Many older properties in Braddan and elsewhere on the island are constructed with solid stone walls. Up to recently it was common for these houses to have coal fires and poorly fitting windows and doors, all of which generally provided good ventilation. When older properties are renovated, double glazing, better fitting doors with draught proofing and central heating are commonly installed. All these lessen the ventilation previously available. These properties typically also have solid external walls, which have the potential to provide a cold surface for condensation and mould to occur.

You need to manage the amount of moisture in the air, the ventilation through your house, including the extract vents where fitted as well as running the heating system efficiently.

All these measures will lessen the chance of condensation occurring and moulds forming.

Improve Ventilation.

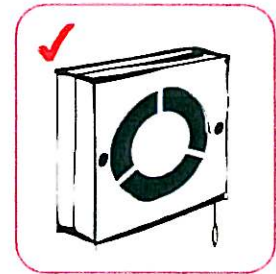
- ▶ **Open doors whenever possible (except kitchen and bathrooms which should be shut at all times).**



- ▶ **Leave kitchen and bathroom windows open for about 20 minutes after use.**

- ▶ **Ensure all fans are working.**

- ▶ **Fans with an overrun are preferred.**



- ▶ **Lift cupboards onto blocks.**
- ▶ **Keep wardrobes away from walls.**
- ▶ **Open windows on opposite sides of the house a couple of times a day.**

Provide Adequate Heating.

- ▶ **Know how to use the time clocks and thermostatic valves on radiators.**
- ▶ **Try to heat the whole house instead of just the rooms in use, it is better to have medium to low heat throughout the house than a high level in some rooms and none in others.**



Condensation or Damp?

How can I tell if I have damp or condensation?

- ▶ **Building defects such as rising damp, leaking rainwater pipes and gutters, missing slates etc, should all be attended to, these generally will give a characteristic white tidemark where the water dries and reoccurs and is caused by salts in the walls and mortar.**
- ▶ **Damp from defects will also cause plaster bubbling.**
- ▶ **Mould growth usually occurs with condensation, which can easily be wiped off.**
- ▶ **Condensation often occurs when the weather turns colder i.e. Autumn.**

Regular maintenance is essential to prevent long-term damage to your home. If you suspect damp is coming from outside have it checked.

First steps against Condensation.

- ▶ You will need to take proper steps to deal with condensation, but meanwhile, straight away.
- ▶ Dry windows, windowsills and other wet surfaces. Wring out the cloth rather than drying on a radiator.



First steps against Mould.

First deal with the mould already in your home then deal with the basic problem of condensation to stop the mould reappearing.

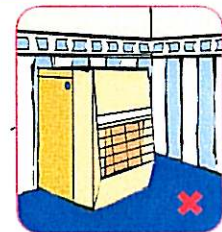
- ▶ Kill and remove mould, wipe or spray affected surfaces with a fungicidal wash that carries a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) 'Approved number' - **ensure you follow the instructions for safe use.**
- ▶ Dry clean mildewed clothes and shampoo carpets.
- ▶ **Do not remove mould with a brush or vacuum cleaner.**
- ▶ After treatment repaint preferably with a good quality fungicidal paint.
- ▶ **The effect of fungicidal or condensation paint is destroyed if covered with ordinary paint.**

Key Points to Remember.

- ▶ **Reduce the amount of moisture produced.**
- ▶ **Improve ventilation.**
- ▶ **Reduce the number of cold surfaces.**
- ▶ **Maintain an adequate temperature.**

Tips.

- ▶ **For extra heat in a room use an electric fan heater. Never use calor or bottled gas.**
- ▶ **Leave windows open in kitchens and bathrooms for 20 minutes after use.**



- ▶ **Let wet clothes dry over a bath not a radiator.**
- ▶ **When filling a bath, run the cold water first then the hot - this will reduce steam by 90%**

- ▶ **Maintain extractor fans, clean off fluff and dirt.**
- ▶ **A freezer in the room will lessen condensation.**
- ▶ **Remove wardrobe backs to allow circulation or drill breather holes and pull shelves away from the back of the wardrobe. Never overfill wardrobes.**

