



Drumchapel Housing

Co-operative Limited

What causes condensation?

Every day the average UK household puts about 12 litres of moisture into the air in their home, through normal activities such as cooking, washing clothes and bathing; breathing alone contributes about 1 litre per person every 24 hours.

In homes where clothes are dried indoors, or which use paraffin or bottled gas heaters, the total can be over 20 litres a day. About half this moisture is produced slowly throughout the day in different rooms and the remainder is produced over short periods of time and in large quantities, mainly in the kitchen and bathroom around teatime when kids come home from school and people come home from work.

Even in warm, well-ventilated homes, moisture in the air can result in condensation during the winter, most people are familiar with the misting on the mirror after running a bath, or on the inside of windows on a cold morning. Usually, condensation disperses fairly quickly and does not cause more than minor inconvenience, but in homes which are poorly heated or inadequately ventilated, condensation is often serious and persistent, and leads to the growth of mould.

Is your property suffering from Condensation problems?



Wet Windows

Top Tips to Beat Condensation

TIP 1:

Keep your home well ventilated by opening windows every day. You should also make sure that the trickle vents in your windows are open as these allow additional airflow that will combat condensation. If you have condensations on your windows it is likely that it will be elsewhere in your property too.

TIP 2:

When you are cooking always turn the extractor fans on in the kitchen on a high power. This will extract any excess moisture from boiling pots and pans. If possible, open up the kitchen windows whilst cooking for extra ventilation. Ideally leave the extractor fan on for longer than you are cooking as there will be excess moisture in the air which you cannot see.

TIP 3:

After taking a bath or shower there will be excess moisture in the air. To stop condensation forming, the bathroom windows should be opened and extractor fans turned on at all times. Try to keep the bathroom door shut as much as possible so the moisture doesn't escape into other parts of your home.

TIP 4:

When you are drying your clothes you should dry them outside where possible. If you cannot do this then put them in an enclosed room and keep the window open. If you use a tumble dryer to dry your clothes it is extremely important that the ventilation pipe runs to the outside of your property.

TIP 5:

You should leave a small gap between the walls of your home and your furniture as this allows the air to move away from the bottom of the walls and circulate around the room. If air lingers between the furniture and walls it will condense onto walls and could eventually form into black mould, especially in bedrooms where there are wardrobes or drawer units up against walls.

TIP 6:

Your property's airways such as airbricks should be clear and not covered over to allow airflow in and out of your home. Air ventilation is extremely important as you don't want moist air to be trapped in one part of your home as it will condense on your walls.

TIP 7:

During the winter and at other cold times of the year you should try to maintain a constant temperature in your home. This is because it is cold air that causes the warm air to release moisture. If the air is all the same temperature then this cannot happen.

TIP 8:

Always keep the lids on pots and pans whilst cooking so that the moisture does not escape from the pans. If the lids are off moisture will be rising from the pans even if you cannot see it. Just as you can only see your breath in the air on a cold day, you can only see the moisture rising from a pan when the temperature is lower.

What's the cure?

The main factors involved in condensation in the home are the amount of moisture in the air and the air temperature and the temperature of the surfaces in the room. To reduce the risk of condensation occurring, either the moisture content of the air must be reduced or the home must be made warmer. In practice it is usually necessary to do both.