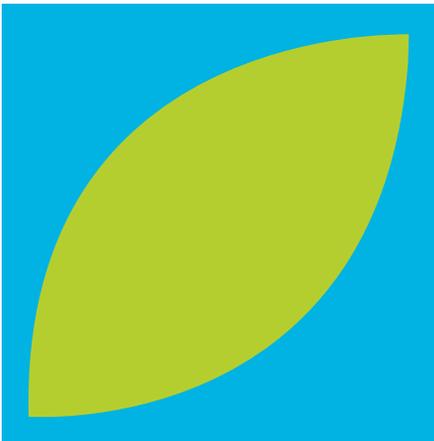
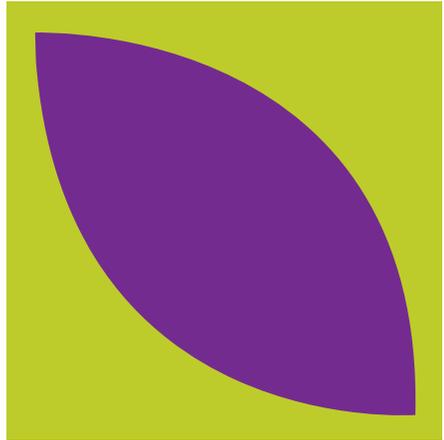


# DAMP AND CONDENSATION



**A guide to  
identifying and  
controlling damp  
and condensation  
in your home**



If there is damp in your home your first reaction may be to think there is something wrong.

However, most damp comes from condensation, which is caused by the way we live. In a small number of cases damp is caused by water coming through the structure of the house. The information in this leaflet explains the different types of damp, the causes and how to deal with it.

**We have produced a useful DVD which gives practical advice on how to minimise and deal with damp and condensation. To view the DVD either visit our website – [chp.org.uk](http://chp.org.uk) – or contact us on 0300 555 0500 to request a copy is sent to you through the post.**



## WATER PENETRATION AND RISING DAMP

If damp in your home looks like the images in A or B below, it is likely to be water penetrating through the roof or wall.

Penetrating water occurs as a result of water seeping through gaps in a building's structure.

Rising damp describes the action of ground moisture rising up a

masonry wall. It will often leave a horizontal 'tide mark'. It often occurs where there is no damp-proof course (DPC) or where the DPC has been damaged. Rising damp can also be caused by large objects being placed against an outer wall and stopping air from circulating.

If the damp in your home looks like the images in C or D below it is likely to be rising damp.



A



B



C



D



If you think you have penetrating or rising damp in your home, call our Customer Service Centre on 0300 555 0500 who will make an appointment for a surveyor to inspect the problem.

## CONDENSATION

If the damp in your home looks like those in images E and F below, it is likely to be caused by condensation.

If moist air cannot escape outside, it moves around your home until it finds a cold spot where it becomes condensation. This may lead to mould growth.

**If you find mould in your home, you must remove it straight away by cleaning the area.**

Your tenancy agreement requires you to keep your home in a clean and tidy condition. This means you are responsible for cleaning away any mould in your home.

The best way to clean mould is to use a mould-killing product. You can buy these from supermarkets and hardware stores. In a supermarket you will find them in the aisle with other household cleaners. Make sure you follow the instructions on the product carefully. You might have to use it regularly to clear the mould completely.



E



F

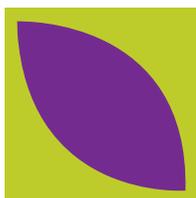


If you simply wipe mould away or only use bleach or an ordinary cleaner the mould is likely to keep coming back. Mould will also come back if you do not deal with the source of the condensation.

## CONTROLLING CONDENSATION

Condensation will appear in your home if there is too much moist air caused by everyday activities such as cooking, washing and bathing. We all want to keep our homes as warm as possible but it is important to ventilate your home to help control condensation. You can minimise the moisture in your home by following these simple steps:

- If you have trickle vents above your windows, keep them open all the time;
- Do not block air vents;
- Place furniture or other items away from the walls – this helps air circulate and stops mould growing;
- Open the window slightly for half an hour after bathing or cooking to get rid of the moist air;
- Use an extractor fan in the bathroom and kitchen. Extractor fans are cheap to run and use less energy than a standard light bulb;
- Keep kitchen and bathroom doors shut to stop moisture moving to other areas of your home;
- Try not to dry clothes inside. If you have to, open the window and shut the door of the room where the clothes are drying;





- If you use a tumble dryer make sure it has a vent to outside;
- Avoid using portable gas and paraffin heaters as these fuels give off moisture when they burn. A window should always be left open for safety reasons when using these heaters;
- Cover cooking pans with lids – as well as saving on your gas or electricity bill it will reduce the amount of moisture;
- If you have a fish tank make sure it has a lid otherwise water will evaporate causing excess moisture in the air.

**If your problem is not from a leak or a faulty or non-existent damp-course, it is probably caused by condensation.**

## HEAT UP

Condensation occurs on cold spots, so warming up these areas can help to control condensation. We have helped keep your home warm by fitting double-glazed windows and insulating lofts and walls.

Condensation and mould often form in a different place to where the moist air comes from. For example, moisture might come from your kitchen but mould might occur in any room if it is not used very often. This can be because this room is not usually heated. Try heating all rooms regularly. It is better to heat the whole home to a lower temperature than one room to a higher temperature.

If you have recently moved into a new-build property your home may still be drying out after construction. This means it is even more important to ventilate and evenly heat your home.



## THREE STEPS TO CONTROL CONDENSATION:

- 1 Clean mould away with a mould cleaner as soon as it appears;
- 2 Think about where excess moisture might be coming from in your home;
- 3 Try to minimise it by ventilating the room(s) where excess moisture is created.

**Condensation will appear if there is too much moist air caused by everyday activities such as cooking, washing and bathing.**



Please contact us if you would like a copy of this document in large print, on CD or in another language.

Proszę się z nami skontaktować, żeby otrzymać ten dokument w wersji dużym drukiem, na płycie CD lub w innym języku. (Polish)

倘若您需要本檔以大字體、音頻格式(CD)或另外一種語言提供,請聯絡我們。(Cantonese)

Bu belgeyi büyük boyutlu baskı olarak, CD ortamında veya başka bir dilde edinmek istiyorsanız lütfen bizimle irtibata geçin. (Turkish)

Kreipkitės į mus, jei norėtumėte gauti šio dokumento kopiją stambiu šriftu, jo garso įrašą kompaktiniame diske arba jei norėtumėte jį gauti kita kalba. (Lithuanian)

আপনি যদি এই নথিটির একটি কপি বড় অক্ষরের ছাপায় সিডি তে অথবা অন্য একটি ভাষায় পেতে চান, অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন। (Bengali)

## IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT US:

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Text relay 18001 0300 555 0500

Email enquiries@chp.org.uk

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Chelmsford, CM2 5LB

