



Wipe out condensation, damp and mould



Through the delivery of our investment programmes and positive resident engagement, the council is improving homes and informing residents to prevent and manage damp, condensation and mould.

Condensation

Condensation is often mistaken for damp, but they are very different. Condensation is produced by normal everyday activities like cooking, bathing or showering.

All air contains water vapour and when it meets a cold surface it becomes liquid – producing condensation. Unless it can escape through an open window, air vent or extractor fan, it will stay in your home until it finds a cold spot where it can condense.

Signs to look out for:

- windows are misted up
- pools of water on your windowsills after a cold night
- mould appearing in corners, cupboards and behind furniture



How to avoid condensation

- ✓ Improve air flow by leaving trickle vents open and windows partly open (if safe)

- ✓ Cover cooking pots and pans and do not leave kettles boiling on the hob



- ✓ Keep rooms at a low background heat in cold weather



- ✓ Wipe condensation on windows daily with a dry cloth
- ✓ Close the kitchen and bathroom doors when these rooms are in use, even if they have an extractor fan
- ✓ Position wardrobes and furniture against internal walls or slightly away from external walls
- ✓ Dry clothes outside or in a well-ventilated area – do not dry wet clothes on a radiator

Damp

Damp is caused by a defect in the structure of your home, such as leaking pipes and sinks or tiles missing from roofs.



Rising damp is caused by water rising from the ground, usually visible as a tide mark up to 1,000mm (40in).

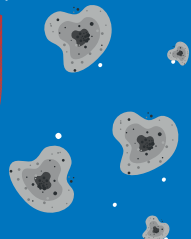
Penetrating damp affects external-facing walls and ceilings and is usually caused by an external defect such as leaking gutters, roofs, etc.

This is usually accompanied by a 'damp patch' which looks and feels damp.

Any sign of dampness within your home must be reported immediately to the council's responsive repairs services for a full assessment to be undertaken.




Take action against mould



- ✓ Remove mould growth by wiping down walls and window frames with a fungicidal wash, which carries a Health & Safety Executive 'approval number'. Follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely
- ✓ Dry clean mildewed clothes and shampoo carpets
- ✗ Do not brush or vacuum mould as this can increase the risk of respiratory problems
- ✓ After treatment, redecorate using a good quality fungicidal paint to help prevent mould recurring





The only lasting way of avoiding severe mould is to eliminate condensation and dampness

- report any sign of dampness or excessive mould through to the repairs service without delay
- engage with the council to seek support in managing signs of mould within your home
- manage your heating to keep all rooms and walls warm
- reduce air moisture wherever possible
- ventilate your home as much as possible throughout the year
- clean away any signs of mould as soon as it appears

Visit our website for more help and advice or to report a repair at thurrock.gov.uk/damp-and-mould or call: **0800 074 0169**

