

Damp and mould checklist

Complete our six step checklist to help us keep your home free of damp and mould.

1. Check your home for structural issues causing damp and mould

- Sometimes damp is caused by leaks and in rare cases, structural and repair issues. If you spot any of the below **please get in touch as soon as possible.**
- Penetrating damp can be caused by leaks from your roof, gutters, windows or plumbing. This will be focused in one place and will dry out once the leak is fixed.
- Rising damp happens when external walls soak up water. This is rare and in most cases doesn't cause black mould. It usually happens when your home's damp proof course becomes ineffective or obstructed.
- Damp and mould can also be caused or affected by repair issues like internal pipework leaks, faulty extractor fans, washing machines or dryers.

2. Minimise the amount of moisture in your home

- Keep lids on saucepans
- Always run the extractor fan when cooking or bathing
- Open trickle vents for 10mins in the morning, after cooking, or showering.
- Dry your clothes outside, in a room with a window open, in a room with an extractor fan, in a tumble dryer venting outside or using a condenser and avoid putting your wet clothes on a radiator as they will fill the room with moisture in seconds.
- Don't use bottled gas heaters
- Put cold water in a bath when before adding hot



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3. Improve the air ventilation in areas prone to mould

- Position large furniture like wardrobes, beds and sofas on internal walls.
- Don't overfill cupboards or shelves where mould tends to form.
- Keep air bricks and extractor fans clear.
- Don't draught-proof kitchen or bathroom windows, or anywhere prone to damp

4. Minimise the number of cold surfaces

- Try to heat your home to avoid damp in the winter. Try heating your living room to 21 degrees and bedrooms to 18 degrees if you can. We understand it's difficult at the moment so if you're struggling with the rising cost of energy, please get in touch with our Money Advice Team on 01782 744533 or email hello@staffshousing.org.uk
- If you can't heat your entire home try keeping the doors shut on unheated rooms.

5. Wipe down condensation

- Wipe down condensation from windows and other areas in the morning with a dry cloth. Wring the cloth in the sink rather than putting it on the radiator to dry.

6. Wipe down and treat small or isolated outbreaks

- If you spot mould on your clothes or carpets, you'll need to wash or clean them. You can treat them with anti-mould cleaners that are made specifically for your clothes or carpets. You can get these at your local supermarket.
- If you spot black mould on hard surfaces, wipe it down with a mould treatment or anti-fungal spray. These are readily available from supermarkets. You might need to do this at least once or twice a month in winter.

Find out more by visiting:
www.staffshousing.org.uk/Damp