

# How to...



# deal with condensation



## Keep your home warm

Condensation occurs when warm, moist air touches a cold surface like a chilly windowpane or a cold external wall. Loft and wall insulation can help create warmer spaces, and properly fitted double glazing will help to avoid misty windows because the inner panel of glass is insulated against the cold air outdoors.

Try to maintain a constant temperature within your home by setting your thermostat to a lower temperature, but over a longer period of time each day. This will help to avoid sudden rises and dips in temperature, when condensation could develop.

Help to make the most of the heating when it is on by ensuring that radiators aren't blocked by furniture; and make sure towel warmers aren't overloaded with damp towels.



## Make sure your home is well ventilated

Providing a route for moisture to escape from your home will help to minimise condensation.

Double-check that washing machines and tumble dryers are plumbed in and vented correctly. Turn on the extractor fan in your bathroom and kitchen and make sure that it's set to run for a long enough period of time to clear moisture from the room. (If you don't have an extractor fan installed, please contact us for further guidance; we may need a surveyor to visit to confirm if this is possible.) Open windows when possible, or trickle vents if you have them. Newer window frames may allow you to open windows a small amount and then lock in place. This is especially important during the colder months when we spend more time indoors.



## Avoid producing lots of moisture

Drying washing indoors (on radiators, for example) can create a lot of condensation, so dry laundry outdoors on a rotary drier or a washing line, or use a tumble dryer whenever possible. You'll be surprised how quickly laundry can dry outside even in winter (as long as it doesn't rain). Choose an efficient A or A\* rated tumble dryer to keep running costs as low as possible. If you have a condensing tumble dryer, keep a window open in the room and close the door. If drying indoors can't be avoided, use a clothes horse and place in the bathroom with the window open and door closed. A dehumidifier with laundry setting can be a help too.

Try to avoid home improvement and cleaning projects that create a lot of moisture when the weather is cold or wet and surfaces dry more slowly. Tasks such as painting and decorating, mopping floors and cleaning windows are best saved for better days when you can comfortably open a window.





## Take care when cooking

Pans on the stove, as well as kettles, can produce considerable amounts of steam and moisture. Covering pans with a lid while cooking will help to minimise condensation on your kitchen windows. It not only stops moisture getting into the air but also helps food cook faster and is more energy efficient.

If you have one, switch on your cooker hood when using the hob and leave on for five minutes once you've finished, to help clear the air. Don't forget to regularly replace the filter on your cooker hood to make sure it's working as efficiently as possible.



also wipe clean more easily if any mould develops. If you prefer wallpaper, choose vinyl wallpaper that is splash proof and can be wiped clean too.



## Remove excess moisture

Using a dehumidifier will help to remove excess moisture from the air, leaving your home feeling warmer and more comfortable.

Choose a smart model that switches on when humidity rises, or use a timer to run for a short time every day. You'll be surprised how much moisture it will remove from your home. Moisture absorbers are ideal for cupboards and tight spaces where damp appears, but a power supply isn't practical.

If condensation regularly develops on windows, use a cloth to remove the water in the morning and wring it out in a sink. Alternatively, wipe with a chamois leather and wring out into the sink. This will help rooms to dry out more quickly.



## Leave room to breathe

Condensation can form behind furniture and furnishings that touch colder outer walls, eventually resulting in mould growth. Try to position furniture a few centimetres away from external walls, to allow air to circulate. If you experience a lot of condensation on windows, choose coverings that can be moved well clear of frames. Fit a generous length of curtain pole or rail that allows you to pull curtains well away from the window and install blinds over the window alcove rather than within it.



## Choose moisture resistant paint and wallpaper

If your home is prone to damp or condensation, choose wall finishes that make preventing the problem easier. Go for painted surfaces and choose paints designed for use in kitchens and bathrooms. With formulas designed to resist moisture and steam, they will help to prevent mould and