

Damp or mould

The damp is probably being caused by condensation. Air always has moisture in it. The warmer it is the more moisture it can hold. If the air cools, for example, when it hits a cold wall or window, it can't hold so much moisture and small droplets appear. If this water is allowed to soak in, mould can grow.

What you can do

Remove mould

Remove any mould, as soon as you see it:

- clean the area with soapy water or a fungicidal wash (follow any instructions carefully)
- don't brush or vacuum the area as it can disturb mould spores
- dry the area thoroughly
- paint the area with a fungicidal paint, don't use ordinary paint or wallpaper

Reduce moisture

You can remove moisture by wiping any damp or wet windows, sills, walls and surfaces with a paper towel and throwing it away.

Cooking:

- close the kitchen door
- open a window or put the extractor fan on
- cover pans with lids
- don't leave pans or the kettle boiling longer than needed

Having a shower or bath:

- close the bathroom door
- open a window or put the extractor fan on
- leave the window open or fan on until all the moisture has gone from the windows and walls
- when having a bath, put some cold water in the bath first, then add hot water, this will reduce the amount of steam produced

Drying clothes:

- dry clothes outdoors, if possible
- if you have to dry them indoors, put them in the bathroom with the door shut, heating on and open a window or put the extractor fan on
- if you use a vented tumble dryer, make sure it has a hosepipe taking the moisture outside

Heating:

- keep low, background heating on all day, if possible, warm air can hold more moisture so you're less likely to have condensation
- don't put heating on for short periods of time as this will make the problem worse, as the air heats and cools quickly
- don't use liquid, propane gas or paraffin heaters, they produce a lot of water vapour

Help air move around:

- leave doors open when you're not cooking, having a shower or bath, or drying clothes
- keep furniture away from walls, particularly external walls, if possible
- don't overfill cupboards and wardrobes
- don't block airbricks or vents
- don't completely block chimneys, leave a hole and fit an air vent
- keep a window slightly open, if possible, this will help moisture escape

It might seem strange to keep the heating on with a window slightly open, but it helps because you're letting air that's full of moisture out and dry air in. Dry air is easier and cheaper to heat.

