

First Steps Against Mould Growth

Mould growth is a result of condensation and can be dealt with quite easily:

- Ensure that your home is adequately heated and ventilated;
- Wipe off any condensation that occurs on walls, windows and window reveals.
- Wash mouldy areas with a mixture of bleach and water (one egg cup full to a pint of water);
- Use a paint that contains a fungicide when re-decorating (These products are not effective if over-painted with ordinary paints or covered over with wall paper).
- Mouldy clothes should be dry-cleaned.
- Carpets should be professionally shampooed.

For further advice or information please contact

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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

How to prevent

Damp and Mould

in your home



Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Is your home damp?

Damp can cause mould on walls and furniture and make timber window frames rot. Damp housing encourages the growth of mould and mites and can increase the risk of respiratory illness.

Some damp is caused by condensation. This leaflet explains how condensation forms and how you can keep it to a minimum, so reducing the risk of dampness and mould growth.

What is Condensation?

There is always moisture in the air, even if you cannot see it. If the air gets colder, it cannot hold all the moisture and tiny drops of water appear.

This is condensation. You notice it when you see your breath on a cold day, or when the mirror mists over when you having a bath.

Condensation occurs mainly during cold weather, whether it is raining or dry, it does not leave a 'tidemark'. It appears on cold surfaces and in places where there is little movement of air. Look for it in corners, on or near windows, in or behind wardrobes and cupboards. It often forms on north-facing walls.

A wall may be cold and attract condensation for several reasons:

- Walls of rear extensions in older houses are more exposed and so may be colder;
- It may only be a 4 inch thick brick wall, especially where an old external toilet or coal house has been demolished or incorporated into the main house;
- It may be facing north or the room may be unheated;
- A leak from a gutter or pipe may make part of a wall colder.



Mould growth occurs when mould spores germinate on contact with surfaces that are damp through condensation. The mould takes the appearance of small black spots on the wall or window surface.

3 Steps to Reduce Condensation

1. Produce less moisture

- ✓ Cover pans and do not leave kettles boiling;
- ✓ Dry washing outdoors on a line, or in the bathroom with the door closed and window open;
- ✓ Vent any tumble dryer on the outside, unless it is a self condensing type.

2. Ventilation

- ✓ Keep a small window ajar or trickle ventilator open when someone is in the room;
- ✓ Ventilate kitchen and bathrooms when in use by opening the windows wider;
- ✓ Close kitchen/ bathroom doors when these are in use to prevent moisture reaching other rooms.

3. Insulate and Draught proof

- ✓ Insulate the loft and draught proof loft hatch.
- ✓ Consider cavity wall insulation.
- ✓ Consider secondary or double glazing to reduce heat loss.
- ✓ In cold weather keep the heating on low all day.