

Cleaning off black mould

We recommend a bleach solution, which is cheap and easy to make and use.

Half fill a bucket with cold water, and add a capful of thin (not thick) bleach.

Wear rubber gloves, and soak a cloth. Wring the cloth out so it is barely damp.

Wipe down walls, windows and furniture using the bleach solution. Make sure you test the bleach solution on an inconspicuous area first.

Do not spray any solutions directly onto plaster walls or wallpaper, this only makes them wetter!

If you want to use a fungicidal spray, follow the instructions on the label—these are usually designed for use on hard surfaces, such as tiles, not walls

Dry clean mildewed clothes and shampoo carpets.



Things to consider.....

- Have you checked the Energy Performance certificate for your rented home? This will tell you how efficient your home is to heat and what could be done to make it better. If you don't have one, ask your landlord or agent for a copy.
- If you have storage heaters are you on the correct electricity tariff to heat them? You should be on an economy 7 tariff. If you're not speak to your electricity provider or landlord.
- Change what you do, try different routines and see what works. But always, always clean the mould off.
- If you want further advice or guidance contact Private Sector Housing on the details below.

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Advice for tenants on how to reduce damp and mould growth in their rented home.



How to reduce condensation and black mould growth



Condensation

is the most common cause of dampness experienced by tenants.

Condensation is caused by moisture (water vapour) in the air, most often produced in the home, coming into contact with a cold surface, such as a window or external wall. Water droplets (condensation) soak into the wallpaper or paintwork making it damp. On the surface of the damp area black mould starts to grow.

Condensation facts:

- * October to March is when condensation and black mould is most likely to occur, as the outside temperature drops.
- * Mould growth is most commonly found in the corners of rooms, behind furniture, on and around windows and in areas with little air circulation (under beds), especially when there is an external wall.
- * If you have black mould this does not necessarily mean there is water penetrating through the walls or rising from the floor. It is most likely to be condensation.



Penetrating Damp or Condensation?

As a rule of thumb, penetrating damp produces tide marks in patches, whilst condensation causes general black mould growth.

How is condensation produced in my home?

Everyday activities produce moisture, some of the key ones are:

- Breathing -each person produces 20ml of moisture an hour , which is significant when confined to one room, such as a bedroom at night)
- Cooking and boiling water (kettles)
- Showering and bathing
- Drying clothes inside

How can I reduce black mould in my home?

1. Produce less moisture; dry clothes outside or in the bathroom with the door shut and window open, cover pans when cooking, vent your tumble dryer outside. Close the door when showering and bathing and use any extractor fans fitted.

2. Remove excess moisture; wipe windows and window sills every morning to remove condensation. Vent your tumble dryer to the outside.

3. Ventilate; Open the windows in a couple of rooms every morning to allow a through draught for at least 30 minutes. Always open the bathroom window after you bath or shower and leave it open until the mirror is no longer steamed up (Keep the door closed though). When cooking open a window so the excess moisture can escape. Keep the trickle vents in windows open. If fitted, use the mechanical extract ventilation in bathrooms and kitchens.

Windows should not be left open all day in colder weather.

4. Heat your home; keep a low background heat on all day rather than short bursts of high heat, the most economic and effective heating is gas central heating (radiators) and electric storage heaters. If you have poor heating this can make it harder to control black mould growth.

5. Clean the mould off; don't leave the mould, clean it off, you may need to do this regularly.

The don'ts of condensation

- Do not leave windows open all day in colder weather.
- Do not completely block up chimneys.
- Do not block up air bricks and vents without seeking advice first.
- Do not make the wall wet by spraying it with a solution when cleaning off black mould.
- Do not carry on as you are, you will need to change your routines and the way you are living to reduce the mould growth.