



Damp & mould: reducing the risk

If damp or mould is a problem in your home, please tell us. We'll arrange a time to visit your home so we can help. Where there's a structural issue in your home, we'll sort it out. There are things you might be able to do too.

Condensation can cause mould. Condensation is caused by the air in your home being too wet. Mould looks like small black, grey or green spots on the wall or on other surfaces in your home. This can be removed by you or your family, where possible. If this isn't possible, please call us. We're here to help, so if you have any concerns please get in touch.

Cold homes are more likely to have condensation. It's important to keep your home warm. If you're worried about how to afford heating your home, again, please get in touch. We can help you to access grants and funds that you may not know about.

**Call us on 01225 366000.
We're here to help.**

1 Heating: Keep your home warm. Warm air can hold more moisture causing less condensation to form on surfaces. If you're worried about heating your home call us on **01225 366000**.

2 Ventilation: Try to make sure all vents are open. Try not to block or cover air bricks, flues or ventilators.

3 Windows: Where fitted, keep the trickle vents open on your windows. From time to time, open your windows slightly to air your home. Ideally, curtains should finish just above the window sill and not touch the glass, which can lead to mould. Try to avoid covering radiators with long curtains, which can stop heat radiating into the room.

4 Furniture: Try to leave a gap between your furniture and outside walls. It's best not to put furniture in front of radiators, as this can prevent heat from radiating into the room. Also try to avoid putting mattresses directly on the floor. This prevents pockets of still, moist air from forming.

5 Kitchen: When cooking or washing clothes, it's best to keep the kitchen door closed and open a window. Try to keep lids on pans and, if you have an extractor fan, switch it on to send the wet air outside.

6 Bathroom: When you're showering, it's best to open the window to reduce the spread of water vapour. If you have an extractor fan make sure it's on and keep the door closed to stop moisture spreading.

7 Outside walls: Check there are no bin bags etc against the outer walls of your home. These prevent ventilation and sunlight from warming the walls.

8 Drying clothes: It's best to avoid using radiators to dry clothes – instead use a cheap drying rack in a cooler room like the bathroom where you can close the door, open a window and use an extractor fan. A tumble dryer helps as long as it's plumbed in properly so the wet air goes outside. If you dry clothes on radiators, keep the room well ventilated by using trickle vents or extractor fans and opening windows.

