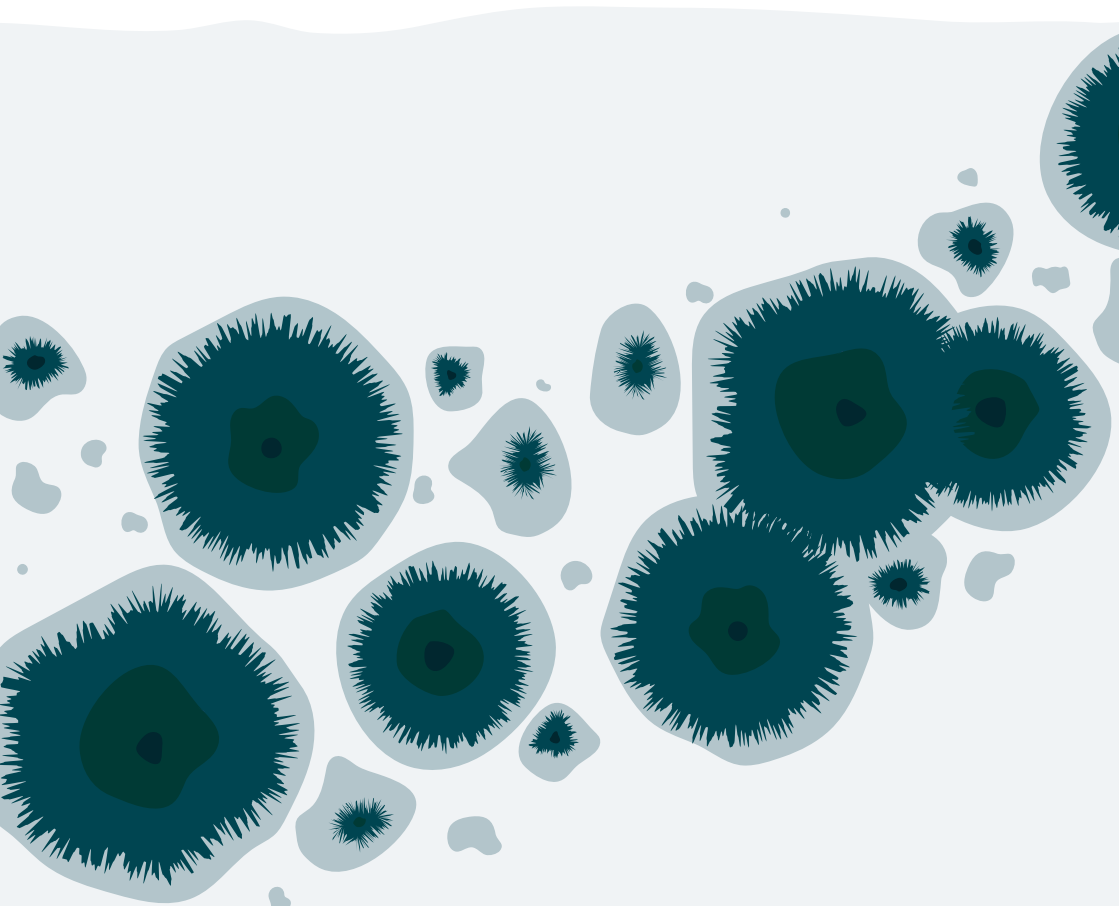


# Damp and mould

Tackle it together

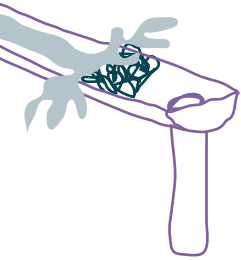


## What is damp and mould?

Mould grows on damp surfaces. In most cases it is caused by condensation. This is moist air in the home from everyday things - such as cooking and showering - which settles on cold surfaces. Occasionally dampness may be caused by water getting into your home from leaking pipes, blocked guttering or an outside wall which needs repointing. In some cases, it could be a combination of both water egress and condensation.

### Spotting the signs

Check your home for:



Overflow from **blocked gutters** penetrating around window frames or leaking through cracked pipes



**Leaking pipes and waste overflows**



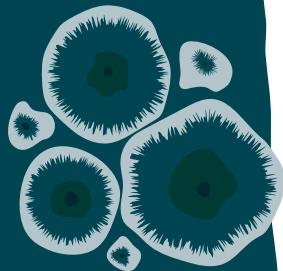
Rain seeping in where **tiles or slates are missing**

**Rising damp** due to a defective dampcourse or because there is no damp course. Leaks and rising damp often leave "tide marks" and only travel to about a metre up the wall without black mould growth. However, this only relates to rising damp and not leaks in general.

If it seems like the cause of the mould may be dampness getting into your home from outside, contact us and we will send someone to put it right. We'll also give you advice and support on how to tackle any mould growth from condensation.

### It's important to take action immediately

Occupants of damp or mouldy buildings are at increased risk of experiencing **health problems** such as respiratory symptoms, respiratory infections, allergic rhinitis, and asthma. Some people are more sensitive to mould than others, and some groups are especially vulnerable.



## What is condensation?

During the colder months condensation becomes a common problem in British homes. It is caused when warm, moist air hits a cold surface such as a window or external wall and condenses, running down the cold surface as water droplets. If left this can develop into black mould which looks and smells bad and can cause health problems.

Look for it in corners, near windows, behind wardrobes, inside cupboards, on the ceiling or places where there is little movement of air. Condensation usually occurs at night when temperatures drop, and doors and windows are closed. Even people breathing can cause condensation and this can cause damp where mould can grow.

### Other causes of condensation



**Steam** from kettles and irons

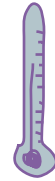


**Cooking** without covering pans



**Bathing and showering** without ventilation

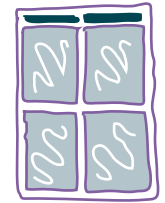
## How to reduce condensation



Try to keep the inside **temperature relatively constant**



Ensure tumble driers are **properly vented**



If your windows have trickle vents **keep them left open**

### Avoid drying clothes indoors

(if you have no choice, place the clothes rack near an open window in a room with the door shut). Do not dry clothes over radiators

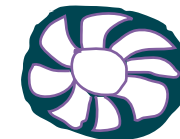


**Don't block** air vents/bricks

Keep the property **well ventilated**



Do not disable any **extraction units**



Move furniture **away from external walls**

**Do not supplement your heating** with paraffin gas type heating



## Helping you keep safe

We want our homes to be safe and will check regularly for any issues. You can help by taking preventative action or letting us know if a problem occurs.

**DON'T  
DELAY**

If you are experiencing damp, mould or condensation within your home, please contact the repairs team: **01634 333601** or freephone **0800 073 0073**

Did you  
know?  
**MOISTURE**

The "average" family produces approximately 15 litres (27 pints) of moisture per day. For example:

- Cooking: 2-4 litres
- Four people sleeping for 8 hours: 1-2 litres
- Washing clothes: 0.5-1 litres
- Drying clothes: 3-7.5 litres
- Dishwashing: 0.4 litres
- Bathing: 0.2 litres

## Further information



Visit: [medway.gov.uk/DampAndMouldPolicy](https://medway.gov.uk/DampAndMouldPolicy)



**Customer services: 01634 333333** (8am to 8pm (Mon-Fri) and 9am to 1pm (Sat))

Please note: Calls to customer services may be recorded or monitored for security and staff development purposes.



**Medway Council Housing Services, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR**



Minicom: **01634 333111**

This information can be made available in other formats from **01634 333333**

If you have any questions about this leaflet and you want to speak to someone in your own language, please phone **01634 335577**

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