

MANAGING CONDENSATION IN THE HOME

THE FACTS

Everyday routines such as washing, cooking, drying clothes, and even just breathing releases moisture into the atmosphere. An average family of four can produce 24 pints (14 litres) of water vapour in just 24 hours, and all that moisture must go somewhere.

How to reduce condensation in the home

Reducing condensation starts by limiting the amount of humidity in the home. The less humidity in the air the less likely it is to condense on the windows and cold surfaces. These are several changes you can make to reduce condensation without worrying about measuring for humidity levels.

Wipe down condensation on windows and sills or use a window vac as soon as it appears to reduce humidity and mould build up.

In the kitchen:

- Use pan lids when cooking
- Turn on the cooker hood to extract moisture
- Keep the doors closed where possible when cooking

Laundry:

- Avoid drying laundry on a rack inside
- Keep tumble dryers in a well ventilated separate room with the doors closed - and limit use
- Ensure your washing machine is correctly vented

In the shower:

- Reduce shower time and lower the temperature
- Run the bathroom fan during the shower and for 15-20 minutes after
- Use bathmats to soak up moisture in the room (ensure these items are not left in the room)
- Keep doors closed whilst in the bathroom and ventilate

Other causes:

- Move furniture away from walls to allow for air circulation
- Check for water leaks around the home
- Make sure vents are installed correctly and lead outside
- Choose indoor plants that reduce humidity, such as Peace Lily, Boston Fern and Spider Plant
- Invest in a high efficiency and appropriately sized dehumidifier
- Watch for broken seals on windows and doors

Ensure your property has adequate heating

An adequate amount of heating in the property will improve the internal temperature of surfaces in the home and reduce the likelihood of condensation.

Less energy efficient homes will produce a higher moisture content i.e. uninsulated walls and lofts. It is difficult with raising costs but sudden rises and drops in air temperature can exacerbate a condensation problem, as water evaporates and condenses each time your central heating switches on and off.