



SAXON
WEALD

TACKLING CONDENSATION

WHAT IS CONDENSATION?

Condensation forms when warm damp air touches cold surfaces such as windows or walls, and the steam/vapour condenses back to its liquid form – water.

As the room heats up, the water once again becomes vapour or steam and lingers in the air before the cycle repeats as it reaches a cold surface.

WHAT CAUSES CONDENSATION?

Condensation moisture in the air can come from a variety of sources within our homes. Water vapour is produced from normal day-to-day activities like ironing, cooking, showering, washing, drying clothes, and even breathing. For example, a five-person household puts about 10 litres of water into the air every day!



Five-person
household



10 litres

WHY IS CONDENSATION A PROBLEM?

Condensation can cause a build-up of moisture on surfaces such as walls, windowsills, and furniture, and if left unattended, can lead to mould growth. Not only can it be harmful to our health, this mould can also damage wallpaper, furniture, plaster, and wood.

PENETRATING DAMP

Penetrating damp is much less common than condensation and is caused by moisture entering the home from an external source, such as leaking plumbing or moisture from the ground.

If you are concerned your property is experiencing damp, please get in touch and let us know. This will enable us to investigate the cause of the problem and get it resolved for you as quickly as possible.

HOW CAN CONDENSATION BE REDUCED?

Some condensation in any property is normal and unavoidable, especially in bathrooms and kitchens. However, there are some ways we can all reduce the impact of condensation in our homes...

TIPS FOR TACKLING CONDENSATION

1 Reducing moisture

Condensation is caused when warm damp air meets cold surfaces. Cutting down moisture levels in our homes can reduce this.



- When cooking, keep lids on saucepans, where possible, and kitchen doors closed to stop steam escaping.
- When taking a bath or a shower, keep the bathroom door closed and wipe down wet surfaces after use.
- Opening windows and using extractor fans, if you have them, can also help damp air escape.

2 Drying laundry

During the winter, we may be more likely to dry wet clothes inside and on radiators. Unfortunately, this can put moisture back into the air.



- If possible, hang washing outside to dry;
- If this is not possible, keeping a window open will help moisture escape.

3 Air circulation

A lack of ventilation can cause dampness and a musty smell in our homes. We can help air to circulate by:



- Keeping furniture away from walls, not blocking radiators or overfilling wardrobes and cupboards.
- Opening the windows for ten minutes each morning to let in some fresh air.

4 Heating

We understand that keeping the heating on is not always possible, especially with the current cost of energy. However, maintaining a low temperature of at least 15°C can help reduce condensation in our homes.



Try to avoid putting the heating on a high setting once or twice a day, as this can cause more condensation and dampness when the hot, damp air hits cold surfaces.



Mould tip:

If you notice small spots of mould in your home, wipe these away using a damp cloth as they appear. This will help to prevent it from spreading.

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