

Keeping your home free from **DAMP AND MOULD**



SERVING PEOPLE, IMPROVING LIVES



**NEWARK &
SHERWOOD**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONDENSATION

Condensation is the main cause of damp and mould in homes.

If the air becomes too cold or you create too much moisture (from cooking, bathing etc.) condensation will appear.

Condensation tends to form on cold surfaces or areas of little air movement in your home. This includes areas such as, windows, patio doors, corners of rooms and behind furniture - try and maintain a 50mm air gap behind furniture to allow good air flow.

Reducing condensation -

TOP 5 TIPS



- 1** Cover saucepans when cooking to prevent excess moisture
- 2** Wipe up any excess moisture after a shower or bath. Close the door and open the window to let moisture escape.
- 3** Dry clothes outside when possible. If drying inside, open a window.
- 4** When running a bath, put a small amount of cold water into the bath before adding hot water.
- 5** Use a dehumidifier. It captures excess moisture in the air.

VENTILATING YOUR HOME

Effectively venting your home will help reduce condensation. Open windows and trickle vents when you can, especially if you're cooking, bathing or drying clothes. While you're cooking or bathing shut the door to prevent condensation forming in the rest of your home.

If you have an extractor fan in your kitchen or bathroom, use it to remove excess moisture from the air. If you have ventilation bricks or vents in your home never cover them up. Try not to overfill cupboards or wardrobes, so that air can move through your items. If you can, drill small ventilation holes in the back of the furniture to prevent mould and condensation forming inside.



HEATING YOUR HOME TO PREVENT CONDENSATION

Keeping your home warmer can reduce condensation and mould in your home.

In cold weather it's best to keep all rooms on low background heating all day to stop condensation forming. Insulating a loft can keep your home warmer, while lowering heating bills. We check the insulation in your home during stock condition surveys and increase it if required. Try not to put furniture in front of radiators or leave a small gap in between them. This will help heat to circulate in your home.



DEALING WITH MOULD

If your home already has a small amount of mould caused by condensation, it's a good idea to treat the mould.

To remove the mould, use an appropriate mould and mildew cleaner. Wash and dry any mouldy clothes or fabrics and shampoo carpets. After treating, use anti-mould paint on the area. Do not put ordinary paint or wallpaper on top of the mould paint.



TOP 10 TIPS:



for Tenants to report health risks in social housing

Awaab's Law strengthens tenant protections against health risks such as damp, mould, and other serious hazards in social housing.

- 1 Report issues early:**
If you spot damp, mould, leaks, or anything that feels unsafe, let your landlord know straight away. It's best to report it in writing (MyHome or Customer Services on telephone).
- 2 Know your rights:**
Landlords must investigate emergency hazards within 24 hours and significant hazards within 10 working days.
- 3 Keep track of everything:**
Save copies of messages, emails, and photos. Note down dates and responses.
- 4 Ask for updates:**
If you haven't heard back or repairs haven't started, ask for an update. Landlords must begin repairs within 5 working days for significant hazards.
- 5 Ask about alternative accommodation:**
If your home can't be made safe in time, you may be entitled to temporary housing paid for by your landlord.
- 6 Understand what counts as a hazard:**
Awaab's Law covers damp, mould, gas leaks, electrical faults, structural issues, and more.
- 7 Help with inspections:**
Let inspectors in when needed. These checks help spot problems early and make sure your landlord is following the rules.
- 8 Know who to contact:**
If your landlord isn't responding, contact your local council's housing officer or Tenancy Assistant.
- 9 Keep informed:**
Ask your landlord or housing provider how they're preparing for Awaab's Law. They should be updating their policies.
- 10 Make your voice heard:**
Join tenant meetings or forums if you can. Your feedback helps improve housing standards.

TOP 10 TIPS:



for Tenants to prevent Damp, Mould and Condensation

Below are some useful hints, tips and guidance to help reduce the risk of damp, mould or condensation forming in your home:

- 1 Ventilate rooms regularly:**
Open windows and use extractor fans, especially in kitchens and bathrooms.
- 2 Keeps lids on pots and pans:**
Use lids when you're cooking to reduce steam and moisture in the air.
- 3 Dry clothes outdoors:**
When this isn't possible, use a vented tumble dryer rather than drying
- 4 Avoid blocking air vents, chimneys, or trickle vents:**
Keeping vents clear helps to maintain airflow, preventing condensation.
- 5 Wipe down windows and windowsills:**
Wipe with a dry cloth each morning if you notice condensation forming overnight.
- 6 Keep your home at a consistent temperature:**
Sudden fluctuations in temperature can encourage condensation.
- 7 Leave a gap between furniture and external walls:**
This allows air to circulate around the furniture and prevent damp spots.
- 8 Report leaks straight away:**
Act quickly to report leaks from roofs, windows, or plumbing to prevent moisture build-up. Under Awaab's Law, landlords must investigate serious leaks within 24 hours.
- 9 Use a dehumidifier:**
Put dehumidifiers in problem areas to help extract excess moisture from the air.
- 10 Ensure gutters and downpipes are clean:**
Proper maintenance of gutters and pipes ensures rainwater is directed away from your home's foundations.

CONTACTING US AND REPORTING ISSUES

The quickest and easiest way to report an issue or request a repair is through MyHome. You can sign in or register here.



Sign in to your account

For any questions and guidance, call Customer Services Team at 01636 650 000 or email at customerservices@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk.