

How to Control Damp



This information table will help you understand what actions you can take, and related costs, to reduce damp in your home. Moisture in the air is known as 'humidity'.

Damp is mainly caused by condensation of water vapour in the air, forming on cold areas on walls and windows. There are other reasons for damp; leaky pipes, rain entering the structure either directly or from guttering and drainpipes - often called 'penetration damp'.

Damp very rarely results from water rising up from the ground.

		No cost	Some costs	Up to £500 – suitable for DIY	Expensive - Not a DIY job
MEASURES	Dry washing	Dry clothes outdoors whenever possible	Open window after bath or shower. If drying damp clothes indoors, ensure good ventilation and close door to room. (some heat lost)	Use a vented or condenser type tumble dryer, minimum C-rated, preferably A- rated Running costs approx £110 per year	
	Cooking	Reduce heat as much as possible. Always use saucepan lids	Open a kitchen window to avoid build up of steam; pressure and slow cookers	Install small ventilator fan in kitchen window where permissible	Extractor hood over cooker with outside vent
	Ventilation	A family of four puts approx 14 litres of water every day into the home + large pets	Ventilate the whole house and especially bedrooms every day, whatever the weather Outdoor air is mostly drier than indoor heated air Lost heat will cost some money	Install trickle vents; Install small extractor fans; Running costs are low	Install 'whole house mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR)'
	Beds	Soak up approx ½ pint of moisture per night	Leave beds open during the day. Keep trickle vents open at all times.		
	Windows		Use kitchen roll paper to wipe away condensation every day and discard. Keep windows ajar in bedrooms at night	Install trickle vents to reduce condensation	

Cost



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MEASURES	Net curtains	Do not let them trail on the window sill. Leave a good gap to help ventilation			
	Mould	Remove with tissue and discard.	Treat mouldy areas with a systemic fungicide	Remove wall cladding to check for reason of recurring mould	Rebuild - Use professional tradesmen
	Clothing Prevent destruction of through mould	Turn out and air wardrobes twice per year	To prevent mould recurring, use a low wattage heater		
	Furniture	Never put furniture close up to a cold wall	Leave an inch behind book cases etc.		
	Heating a home	Avoid using bottled gas for open fires – they give off lots of water	If you are having problems with your present heating arrangement - whether it is expensive to run or inadequate please seek expert advice on what to do and check if financial support is available		
	Lofts		Loft should be insulated and well ventilated. Check if grants are available		
	Walls		External walls should be insulated. Check if grants are available		Condensation on walls seek expert advice
	Security		In order to leave your house with open windows for ventilation you must ensure the windows are secure		

Remember you (or your landlord) do not want damp to damage the fabric of the house.

Damp indoor air, and mould growth as a consequence of damp, is dangerous to your health and especially to the health of your children

Dehumidifiers may be a temporary solution but if they are needed it means there is a problem to be solved through repair of penetrating damp entering the building or insufficient ventilation to remove vapour