

What is condensation?

Condensation occurs when warm, moist air meets a cold surface such as a window, mirror or wall, which causes water droplets to form.

The risk of condensation depends upon how moist the air is and the temperature of the surfaces in the room. How you ventilate and heat your home will affect the level of condensation.

What does condensation do?

Condensation can cause unsightly mould that can damage clothing, furniture and wallpaper. This mould can dry, sending spores into the air that can cause breathing problems for some people.

How to avoid condensation

These four steps will help you reduce the condensation in your home.

Produce less moisture

- **Cooking:**

To reduce the amount of moisture, cover pots and do not leave kettles boiling.

- **Washing clothes:**

Put washing outdoors to dry if you can. If you have to dry clothes inside keep the windows open and the door shut. When using a tumble dryer make sure you vent it to the outside (unless it is the self condensing type).

- **Paraffin & portable gas heaters:**

These heaters put a lot of moisture into the air – one gallon of gas or paraffin produces about a gallon of water. It is important to keep the window open a little and the door closed when using these heaters. If you have problems with condensation try to find other means of heating.

Ventilation to remove moisture

Some ventilation is needed to remove moisture as it is being produced. Keep a small window or vent open when there is moisture in the room.

More ventilation is required in the kitchen and bathroom when cooking, washing up, bathing and drying clothes. This can be done by opening the windows wider. Better still use an extractor fan, they remove humid air and are cheap to run. Close the kitchen and bathroom doors when these rooms are in use, even if your kitchen or bathroom has an extractor fan. Doing this will stop the moisture reaching other rooms, especially bedrooms which are more likely to get condensation.

Allow space for air to circulate in and around your furniture. Open doors to ventilate cupboards and wardrobes, over filling them stops air circulating. Where possible position furniture against internal walls.