

## How do I Recognise Condensation

Condensation is a seasonal problem, occurring during the colder months, as we ventilate our homes less in an effort to keep us warm. This can mean a build-up of water vapour in your home, which may cause condensation. You may recognise the following signs during the colder months:

- Water droplets form on cold surfaces such as glass and paint
- Slightly damp wallpaper
- Development of moulds, usually black mould which can form in areas where there is little air movement.

In some cases, condensation may be long term but intermittent, forming only at certain times of the day or night. In these cases the only sign of condensation, may be mould growth, with water droplets evaporating during the day. The problem can occur well away from the site of most water vapour production. For example, water vapour produced in a kitchen may diffuse through the house into a cold bedroom where it will condense on cool walls and lead to mould growth.

## What can I do to minimise condensation?

- When cooking, cover pans and avoid leaving pots on the boil.
- Air-dry clothes outside, if this is not possible, put them in the bathroom, with the door closed and the bathroom fan on or leave the window open.
- It's important to make sure your home is properly ventilated. Do not block fixed ventilators such as air bricks or trickle vents on windows completely, when possible open windows for ventilation.
- When using the bathroom or kitchen, keep the door closed. To help ventilate, put the extractor fan on, or leave the window open. This will help to contain the moist or stale air in the room.
- Where furniture such as beds, cupboards and sofas are against the wall, try to keep a small distance between the back of the furniture and the wall. It's a good idea to ventilate cupboards to keep the air circulating.
- Wherever possible, particularly in cold weather, you should try to keep your home warm with some form of heating, even if you are not in the home.