

A Guide to treating mould growth



It's always unsettling when you find mould growth in your home, and it's understandable to think there is something wrong.

However, a majority of mould issues come from a build-up of moisture, which is often caused just by living in your home, but there are easy steps you can take to help tackle the problem.

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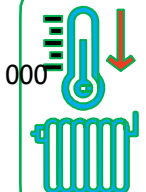


What causes mould growth?

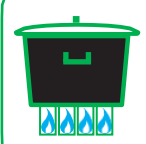
As we go about our daily activities, such as cooking, cleaning and washing, we release moisture into the air. This moisture builds up against cold surfaces and forms water droplets - also known as condensation. This can lead to mould growth if left untreated.

Condensation can form on windows, doors and exterior walls, or any cold surface.

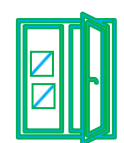
In order to help reduce condensation and lower the likelihood of mould growth there are a number of simple measures you can take, including:



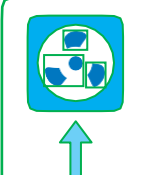
Ensuring you heat your home at a low level when it is cold outside, as this helps stop the water condensing




Put lids on your pans when cooking to trap escaping steam



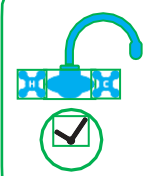
Properly ventilate your home (including cupboards), by opening windows and doors throughout the day




Ensuring any vents are open and use extractor fans when cooking and washing



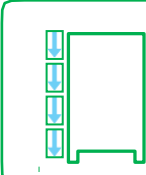
When possible, dry clothes outside rather than on radiators



Try to reduce the length of time spent in baths and showers and make sure the bathroom door is



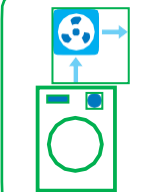
Wipe down around your windows regularly with a dry towel to remove moisture



Try to leave space around furniture to create airflow



Don't put wet items into closed cupboards, let them dry before putting them away



Make sure tumble dryers vent outside, either through an open window or fitted extractor vent

Treating mould build up

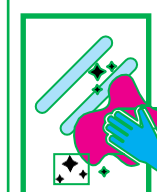
It's important to act fast if you start to notice mould growth, as it's easier to remove the earlier it's treated. Here is a simple guide to treating mould build up.




1. Mix a solution of standard household bleach and water, or you can pick up a cheap bleach spray from most supermarkets



5. When decorating (especially in kitchen and bathrooms) use the correct paint (usually labelled as 'kitchen and bathroom paint'). These have additional mould resistance properties



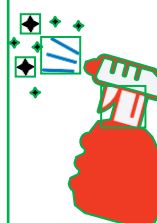
2. Wipe down the affected area with your bleach solution as soon as mould starts to form. This will remove the mould easily and protect the surface from repeat growth for a while



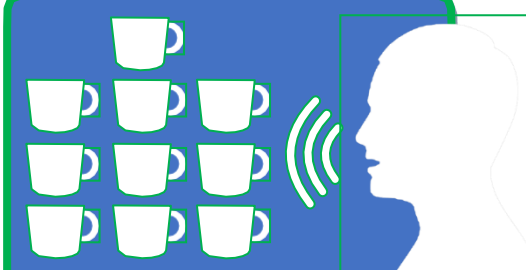
6. As with all cleaning products, please use them carefully and follow safety instructions on the label



3. Keep an eye on the area and repeat clean down if you notice spores starting to grow back



4. Use a specialised mould-killing product on more stubborn build-ups. You can pick these up in most supermarkets. Be sure to follow the instructions on the label



DID YOU KNOW:
The average adult breathes out 2.5kg of water vapour per day, equivalent to roughly 10 cups of tea

Persistent mould problems

Condensation forms on the coldest part of our homes, which is why we see it most often on and around windows.

These cold spots are often around windows, balconies, and in the corners where outside walls and ceilings meet, and these are the most common areas where mould growth will occur

If mould persists, please contact us by using our repair line or through our website, see below

Other causes of mould build up

In some instances, a leaking pipe, gutter, downpipe, or a crack opening in the building can also cause mould to build up. In these instances, finding and fixing the leak will solve the problem.

When you report a mould issue a Maintenance Officer will carry out a thorough check of your home to see if there are any leaks that are causing issues. If we find anything, we will act quickly to ensure these are resolved.

Occasionally, leaks can cause damage to multiple properties, so it is important to report suspected leaks to us as soon as possible.

Contact

Repair helpline - **01389 877 752 – Option 1**

Knowes Website - www.knowes.org/