

# Controlling Condensation and Mould

## **How to get in touch with Tai Ceredigion**

### **By letter:**

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### **By Phone:**

General Enquiries 0345 606 7654

(local rates apply) Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Repairs and out of office hours maintenance emergencies

0800 111 4228 (free phone from landline)

0300 123 3300 (local call rate from mobiles)

### **By email:**

[post@taiceredigion.org.uk](mailto:post@taiceredigion.org.uk)

### **Website:**

[www.taiceredigion.org.uk](http://www.taiceredigion.org.uk)

### **Microsite:**

[lookinglocal.gov.uk](http://lookinglocal.gov.uk)

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Produced by the Leeds Energy  
Efficiency Advice Centre

## Useful Contact Numbers

0800 512 012	Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
0800 111 999	Gas (leaks)
0800 375 675	Electricity (power cuts)
0845 906 0708	Energywatch - Gas & Electricity (consumer complaints)
0845 915 1515	Winter Fuel Payments
0800 009 966	Age Concern
0808 800 6565	Help the Aged
0845 130 9177	Disabled Living Foundation
0800 882 200	Benefit Enquiry Line (for people with disabilities and their carers)

If you need energy related advice and don't know who to contact, ring the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on:- 0800 512 012. They will do their best to put you in touch with the best organisation to meet your needs.

**THIS BOOKLET  
CONTAINS IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION ON HOW TO  
REDUCE PROBLEMS IN YOUR  
HOME CAUSED BY CONDENSATION  
AND MOULD.**

If you find the booklet difficult to understand, please ask a friend, family member or someone you know to translate it for you. If you do not have someone who can do that for you, ring the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on FREEPHONE 0800 512 012 to inform them of your situation and they will help you obtain a translation.

# 1. What is Condensation?

There is always some moisture in the air, even if you cannot see it. If air gets cold, it cannot hold all the moisture produced by everyday activities and some of this moisture appears as tiny droplets of water, most noticeable on windows on a cold morning. This is condensation. It can also be seen on mirrors when you have a bath or shower, and on cold surfaces such as tiles or cold walls.

Condensation occurs in cold weather, even when the weather is dry. It doesn't leave a 'tidemark' round its edges on walls. If there is a 'tidemark', this dampness might have another cause, such as water leaking into your home from a plumbing fault, loose roof tiles or rising damp.

Look for condensation in your home. It can appear on or near windows, in corners and, in or behind wardrobes and cupboards. Condensation forms on cold surfaces and places where there is little movement of air.



## Problems that can be caused by excessive condensation

Dampness caused by excessive condensation can lead to mould growth on walls and furniture, mildew on clothes and other fabrics and the rotting of wooden window frames. Also, damp humid conditions provide an environment in which house dust mites can easily multiply. The presence of mould and dust mites can make existing respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis worse.





## First steps against condensation

You will need to take proper steps to deal with condensation, but meanwhile there are some simple things you should do straight away.

Dry your windows and windowsills every morning, as well as surfaces in the kitchen or bathroom that have become wet. Wring out the cloth rather than drying it on a radiator.

## First steps against mould growth

First treat the mould already in your home, then deal with the basic problem of condensation to stop mould reappearing.

To kill and remove mould, wipe down or spray walls and window frames with a fungicidal wash that carries a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) 'approval number', and ensure that you follow the instructions for its safe use. These fungicidal washes are often available at local supermarkets. Dry- clean mildewed clothes, and shampoo carpets. Do not try to remove mould by using a brush or vacuum cleaner.

After treatment, redecorate using good-quality fungicidal paint and a fungicidal resistant wall paper paste to help prevent mould recurring. The effect of fungicidal or anti-condensation paint is destroyed if covered with ordinary paint or wallpaper.

But remember: the only lasting cure for severe mould is to get rid of the dampness

## 2. What Causes Condensation

There are four main factors that cause condensation:-

- TOO MUCH MOISTURE BEING PRODUCED AT HOME
- NOT ENOUGH VENTILATION
- COLD SURFACES
- THE TEMPERATURE OF YOUR HOME

You need to look at all of these factors to cure a condensation problem.

### 3. Moisture Produced in the Home

Our everyday activities add extra moisture to the air inside our homes. Even our breathing adds some moisture (remember breathing on cold windows and mirrors to fog them up?). One person asleep adds half a pint of water to the air overnight and at twice that rate when active during the day

Reduce the potential for condensation by producing less moisture To give you some idea as to how much extra water this could be in a day, here are a few illustrations:-

2 people at home for 16 hours

3 pints



A bath or shower

2 pints



Drying clothes indoors

9 pints



Cooking and use of a kettle

6 pints



Washing dishes

2 pints



Bottled gas heater

(8 hours use) 4 pints



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Total moisture added in one day  
= 26 pints or  
14.8 litres

Hang your washing outside to dry if at all possible, or hang it in the bathroom with the door closed and a window slightly open or extractor fan on. Don't be tempted to put it on radiators or in front of a radiant heater.

