



Top Tips

to help you with
condensation in
your home



**BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

axis

What is condensation?

Condensation appears as 'steamed up' windows and as patches of damp on walls and ceilings.

Where does it occur

Condensation frequently occurs in warm wet rooms like kitchens and bathrooms.

Why is it a problem?

Small amounts of condensation can be found in most homes but if it is not dealt with mould growth can occur.

Where does it come from?

Moisture is produced in all homes by breathing, cooking and washing. An average household produces 21 pints of water vapour a day!

When warm air comes into contact with a cold surface such as a window, or when too much vapour is put into the air, the moisture turns to liquid and forms as droplets of water – this is known as condensation.

What can I do to prevent it?

There are a number of practical steps that you can take to prevent condensation in your home.

In the kitchen

- Keep lids on pans
- Ventilation – open windows
- Ideally your tumble dryer will be vented to the outside or be a condensing dryer
- Keep the internal kitchen door closed when cooking
- Only boil kettles and pans for as long as necessary
- If you have an extractor fan fitted, make sure you use it when cooking

In the bathroom

- Heat the room before taking a bath or shower
- Open a window
- Pour an inch of cold water to the bath before adding hot water
- Use your extractor fan if you have one fitted in your bathroom

In general in the home

- In winter, the temptation is to close or block ventilation to prevent draughts. However, this can cause condensation, so do keep your property well ventilated
- Raising the room temperature reduces condensation – so try to keep your home as warm as you can afford
- If you dry clothes indoors, open a window to allow air to circulate
- Try to avoid drip-drying clothes indoors/over radiators if possible as this can increase water vapour and cause condensation
- Keep all air vents clear of blockages to ensure adequate ventilation

If you see condensation or mould...

If condensation does form on the windows simply wipe it off with a cloth. You can easily clean mould off walls, ceilings and from corners of the room using one part bleach solution to four parts water or by purchasing mould treatment solutions from any DIY store.