

Tackling damp and mould in the home



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

How to tackle mould:

Ventilate

Mould is more likely if your home is damp. Ventilation is necessary to remove condensation.

Open Windows - little and often creating a through draught, especially when drying clothes inside, bathing or cooking. Even when it's cold outside try opening windows, just 5 minutes a few times a day can make all the difference.

Use Ventilation Systems - use kitchen and bathroom extractor fans if you have them; make sure they are kept clear and clean. Keep window trickle vents open.

Remove Condensation - wipe away any moisture on windows/surfaces as much as you can.

Dust

In damp conditions mould can grow on dirt and dust particles, so clean surfaces as often as possible.

Causes of mould:

- Leaks and water damage
- Poor insulation
- Poor ventilation/heating
- Poor drying/cleaning

Heat

Heat your home uniformly (all rooms, if possible) to between 18-21°C. If you cannot afford to heat your home, contact the Council's partner service PECT. They provide a free advice service to help support people to keep warm in their homes and can be contacted on:

Telephone: 0800 802 1773

(Free from a landline. Calls from mobiles may be charged)

Email: energyadvice@pect.org.uk

(or visit their website at: www.pect.org.uk)

Clean

Small areas of mould are easier to deal with effectively. So tackle new mould early. Mould can be removed from hard surfaces with an appropriate mould and mildew cleaning product. Be sure to dry the area thoroughly after cleaning.

When cleaning mould keep doors to the affected room closed but open the window and use protective gear e.g. mask, gloves and goggles. Wash hands thoroughly afterwards as well.



Seek help

You cannot remove condensation if water is getting into your home from disrepair or there is no way for moisture to escape. You should report this to your landlord. Keep a record of your contact with your landlord as this can help if you need to take the issue further.

Mould can be a serious threat to health. If the situation doesn't improve after following these steps for a few weeks and your landlord isn't willing to address the problem you should report it to our Environmental Health team using the following:

Telephone: 01353 665555

Email: ehhousing@eastcambs.gov.uk

Further information is available on our website at www.eastcambs.gov.uk. Please contact us if you require any further advice.



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