

Condensation: Help and Advice Pack

What is Condensation?

Condensation is simply the moisture caused by everyday living. Moisture is absorbed into the warm atmosphere of your house and when the house cools down the moisture condenses on cool surfaces. It can often be seen on windows on cold mornings.

The result is condensation, an extremely underestimated cause of damage to our homes and is almost certainly the most common form of dampness within a building. Thankfully, with everyday living, there are solutions to the problem through condensation treatments.



How is condensation caused?

The moisture in the air comes from a number of sources within the house. Water vapour is produced in relatively large quantities from normal day to day activities - a 5 person household puts about 10 litres of water into the air every day (without taking into account any heating) - i.e.

- Breathing (asleep) 0.3 litres
- Breathing (awake) 0.85 litres
- Cooking 3 litres
- Personal washing 1.0 litres
- Washing and drying clothes 5.5 litres
- Heating - especially paraffin and flueless gas

How to identify condensation

The common sign of condensation is water collecting on the inside of windows or on the window sill. It is generally noticeable where it forms on non-absorbent surfaces, i.e. windows or tiles, but it can form on any surface and it may not be noticed until black mould growth, rotting of material, peeling of decorations or damage to clothes occurs. This is also normally coupled with a strong musty smell.



Where does condensation occur?

The conditions for condensation exist in areas around the home with poor circulation and or high heat loss such as in the following areas:

Cold surfaces (i.e. Windows and mirrors)	Cold corners of rooms
Kitchens	Bathrooms
Built in cupboards	Behind furniture against an outside wall
Walls in an unheated room	Unventilated bedrooms

How to treat condensation

When treating condensation it is essential to tackle the sources of moisture. For day to day issues, condensation treatment can be as simple as opening windows throughout the day, turning on extractor fans whilst cooking and drying clothes outside rather than inside. The aim is to remove the moisture from the air ensuring that black mould cannot grow at all.

For more serious condensation problems however, other alternative methods of condensation treatments need to be considered such as buying a dehumidifier or installing an air ventilation system.

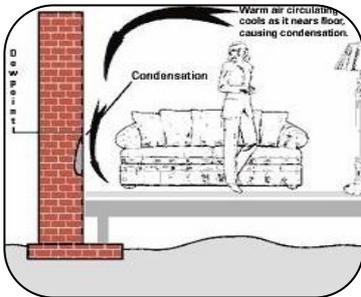
It is unlikely that a home in the UK will never need preventive measures or a form of condensation treatment as most of us do not want to keep our windows open, particularly when it is cold outside.

For more information on condensation treatments you can visit

www.wisepropertycare.com/condensation/treatment-solutions

Stop condensation in 10 steps

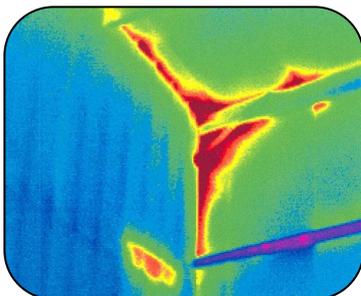
Condensation Circulation



Condensation Problem



Condensation Cold Spot



- 1) Keep your property well ventilated by opening your windows on a daily basis to allow moist air to escape
- 2) When you are cooking always turn the extractor fans on in the kitchen on a high power to allow them to extract any excess moisture from pots and pans. If possible, open up windows for extra extraction. It is an idea to leave the extractor fan on for longer than you are cooking as there will be excess moisture in the air which you cannot see.
- 3) After taking a bath or shower there will be excess moisture in the air. To stop condensation forming the windows should be opened and extractor fans turned on.
- 4) When you are drying your clothes if possible you should dry them outside. If you cannot do this then put them in an enclosed room and keep the window open.
- 5) You should leave a small gap between the outside walls and furniture as this allows the air to move away from the bottom of the walls and circulate around the room.
- 6) Your property's airways such as airbricks and chimneys should be clear to allow airflow in and out of your home.
- 7) During the Winter and at other cold times throughout the year you should try to maintain a constant temperature in your home.
- 8) Always keep the lids on pots and pans whilst cooking so that the moisture does not escape from the pans. If the lids are off moisture will be rising from the pans even if you cannot see it.
- 9) Check your roof to see if there are any problems such as water leaking in.
- 10) Check the guttering and down pipes, make sure that they are carrying the water away and that there are no damaged/blocked guttering or drainpipes causing the external wall to become soaking wet.



Heating vs. Ventilation

It is important to get the right balance between heating and ventilation. When you open your windows it may seem that you are losing heat and allowing cool air to enter your home. However, this actually lets moisture laden air out and dry air in. Dry air is cheaper to heat than moist air so it evens out.

Condensation on windows

Many people find that when they replace old windows with double glazed windows condensation issues appear. This is because older windows are often draughty that allows air to escape your home whereas new doubled glazed windows are fully sealed.

However, simply opening the trickle/drip vents should allow the necessary ventilation.

Energy Efficiency Grants and Advice

Warm Front Scheme

Advice and grants are available towards energy saving measures for people receiving benefits.

0800 316 2805 - www.warmfront.co.uk

Energy Savings Trust

Provide free impartial advice that can help save money and will also help fight climate change.

0800 512 012 - www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Speak to a condensation expert

If you can not get rid of your condensation problem. Contact Wise Property Care for a no obligation damp and condensation survey.

Alternatively, if you want to speak to someone regarding further condensation tips, help and advice contact Wise Property Care today on **0800 65 22 678** or find your local branch on our website.

Suspect condensation
in your property?

Call today

0800 65 22 678

www.wisepropertycare.com/condensation