



This information has been produced to provide you with some guidance on how you can prevent condensation dampness in your home.

If you are an **East Renfrewshire Council tenant** and require further assistance or advice with this matter, please contact the Call Centre on **0141 577 3700** and ask for an appointment with your Technical Officer.

What is Condensation Dampness?

Condensation dampness occurs in the home for various reasons and occurs when “warm moist” air is in contact with a surface which has a temperature lower than the air. The moisture then “condenses” on the cold surface.

There are four main causes of condensation in a property.

- **Lack of heating in the property,**
- **Lack of insulation (loft insulation or cavity wall infill),**
- **Lack of ventilation (circulation of air) &**
- **Moisture production (without suitable extraction)**

Moisture is produced mainly in the kitchen or bathroom - from cooking or bathing. Where there is no heating in these rooms - the way to remedy condensation dampness would be to ventilate the room(s) and install some form of spatial heating.

To improve the ventilation, you can either install a mechanical ventilator, or open the window(s).

If there is space to have a radiator installed, this too would assist in warming the air / room temperature.

Moisture can also be produced through gas heating sources. For example a portable gas or paraffin fire (using “calor” gas) produces 1 litre of moisture for every 1 litre of bottled gas burned. A significant reduction in moisture production can be achieved if portable gas / paraffin heating are not used.

You will also find condensation dampness in cold rooms on external walls and near windows. In order to avoid this, make sure that all rooms within the home are heated and ventilated adequately. Even if rooms are not in use, heating the room (even to a low level) will avoid condensation dampness forming.

How to identify Condensation Dampness

Condensation dampness (black mould spots) will normally appear on external walls or on the ceiling - near / around windows, in corners, or behind furniture.

It appears as mould growth or as a fungus. The mild stages appear as black mould and the more extreme cases will appear as fungus (where left untreated).

In order to remove the mould growth / condensation dampness it must first be cleaned with disinfectant or some form of detergent product.

The next step is to prevent the mould growth appearing again, (some mould growth paints and solutions are available on the market) however identification of the source of the problem is best to be looked at first (i.e. lack of heating, insufficient ventilation in the room).

Therefore remember to:

- **Make sure the room(s) are adequately heated,**
- **Make sure the rooms are adequately ventilated, and**
- **Make sure that your home is well insulated**

If you think that you require loft insulation or your property requires cavity wall insulation please contact your landlord, or alternatively use the contacts below for further advice.

Should you have any questions regarding energy efficiency or wish further information, please contact

<p>East Renfrewshire Council Energy Efficiency & Carbon Reduction Unit 0141 577 8529</p>	<p>Home Energy Scotland 0808 828 2282</p>
---	--

Please Note: Whist care was taken to ensure that the advice contained in this document is accurate; it cannot replace expert advice. It is intended as a guide only and the Council cannot accept any responsibility for any damage or loss incurred by an individual relying on the accuracy of the information.