

Identifying and Preventing damp and condensation



What causes damp?



One of the most frequent problems encountered in the home is damp. There are many causes of damp and condensation in your home. It is important to find out why you have problems, and stop it happening again. St Vincent's can offer you some information on how to prevent, identify and treat damp and condensation.

If a house is not properly ventilated it may have problems with damp.

Problems can happen if air bricks in the wall are blocked up. These bricks are important because they are used to ventilate the spaces above and below the floor.

You can improve ventilation in your home by:

- Checking and cleaning air bricks
- Fit and use extractor fans in the kitchen and bathroom.
- Open windows when

- cooking or washing
- Dry clothes outside

If water gets into your home it can cause damp.

Common causes are rain/snow, a leaking gutter or moisture rising up through the floors and walls.

A damp proof course (DPC) can prevent damp in your home. A sign that a damp proof course needs redoing is damp around the skirting boards.

Damp should be treated quickly to prevent wet or dry rot. Treating this type of rot is very expensive, often floorboards, skirting and plaster need to be replaced. So act fast.

Damp on the ceiling

If you spot damp on the ceiling or at the tops of walls this can be a sign of a leak from above.

Gutters

Blocked gutters can lead to water spilling over leaking into your home and causing damp. Leaves can cause blockages but can be prevented by fitting

a leaf guard. You can pick these up at most DIY stores. Remember to check your gutters at least once a year.

Flashing

This is the protective layer that covers the joints where the roof and chimney meet. These should be checked regularly to make sure they are not damaged.

Slates

Roof slates can break or come loose, especially after bad weather conditions. It is worth while to have a walk around your home after a storm and report any slats that may have fallen off to us.

Down Pipes and Over Flows

If these are leaking they need to be repaired, please contact the link team who can arrange a repair.



DAMP COMING UP FROM THE FLOOR

If you have damp coming through the floor or lower walls there could be a number of causes:

- Soil at high level or above the DPC
- Broken or no DPC
- Leaks from plumbing or central heating
- Leaks from gutters, down pipes and over flows
- Blocked drains

Damp in the Middle of the walls

This could be caused by hidden pipe work that has developed a leak or something blocking the cavity in the wall. Dampness is often found in an unused chimney flue.

How to help prevent damp

Clear soil away from the walls of your house.
Report DPC that needs repairing.

Report damaged gutters, down pipes and over flows.

Make sure there are no cold corners or cold cupboards.

What is Condensation and what causes it?

If you find water on the inside of your windows it is likely to be condensation. You may also find black mould on the walls or blue/green mould on leather or wood.

Mould is usually found in cold corners or cupboards. Condensation is caused when warm moist air meets the cold surface. This happens mainly in Winter when buildings get cold and the windows aren't open much. Reducing the moisture content in the air can help prevent

condensation.

How do I get rid of Condensation?

- Increase the ventilation in your home by opening windows regularly or using window or wall vents
- Invest in a dehumidifier
- Try to prevent warm air from hitting the windows by using plastic film double glazing available from DIY stores
- Check if walls feel cold or clammy, you may have too little insulation. You can get a free home energy advice survey.
- Check that you have the right kind of heating. The energy advice survey will help with this
- Make less moisture, wipe water from your windows and sills
- Allow air to circulate, don't put furniture against the walls of your home. Leave a gap to allow walls to breathe.
- Remember to remove mould as soon as you find it

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where is the damp?	Could be rising damp?	Could be damp coming from above?	Could be condensation?
On the windows- they get fogged up, water collects on window frames or black mould appears			✓
In cupboards or behind large items of furniture placed against an outside wall. Maybe black or grey powdery mould			✓
Around the skirting on ground floors- paper peeling away, paint bubbling, plaster crumbling.	✓		✓
On celings		✓	✓
Damp on the middle of the walls		✓	✓
Damp at the top of walls under the roof		✓	

If you have any questions or concerns about damp or condensation in your home, please contact the St Vincent's Link team on

 0845 606 6565

You can also contact us on our mini-com number

Mini-com 18002 0161 909 6022

We are happy to provide this publication in a variety of formats, including:-

- Braille
- Large print
- Audio Tape
- In an alternative language

If you would like this leaflet in any of the above formats, contact a member of the team on 0845 606 6565.

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পে আপনি আ মাহিतीनां अनुवादमां सहायनी जरूर होय तो कृपा करी, आपनी स्थानिक ओफिसनो संपर्क साधो.

اگر آپ کو اس معلومات کا ترجمہ چاہیے ہو تو براہ کرم اپنے مقامی آفس سے رابطہ کریں