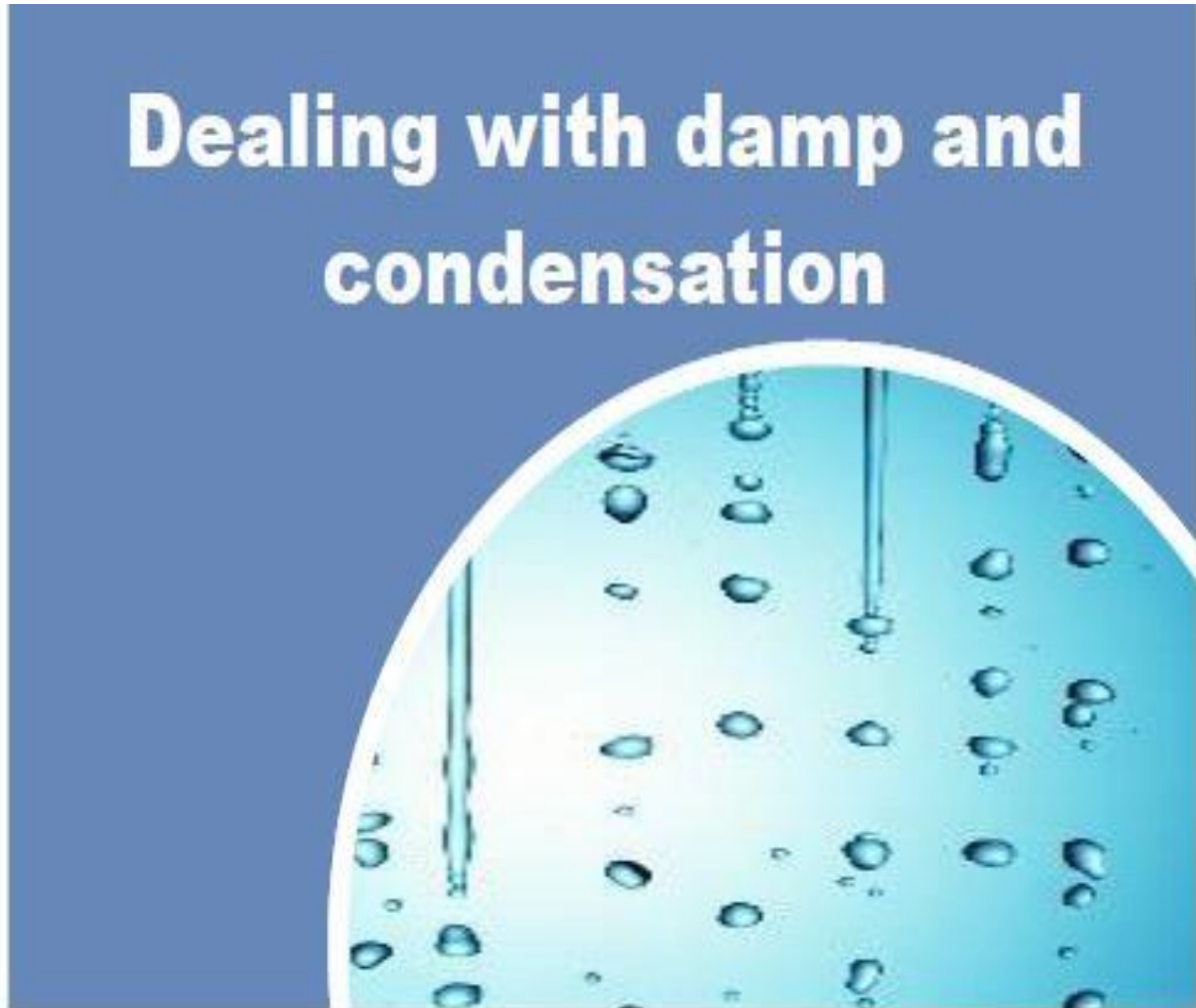




**Specialist Services:  
Working to meet housing need in Ryedale**



This booklet tells you how condensation forms and how you can keep it to a minimum to reduce the risk of dampness and mould growth in your home.

## What is condensation?

Condensation is caused when the water vapour or moisture created inside your home comes into contact with a colder surface eg. a window, glazed tiles or an outside wall.



The resulting water drops caused by condensation may then soak into paintwork, creating the ideal conditions for black mould spores to form.

Condensation mainly occurs in the colder months regardless of whether it is wet or dry outside.

It is most often found in corners and north facing walls or in areas where there is little air circulation such as built-in cupboards or behind wardrobes and beds, especially when they are pushed up against external walls.

## How is moisture produced in the home?

Our everyday activities such as cooking, cleaning and bathing all add moisture to the air inside our homes.

Did you know?

Everything we do adds moisture to the air

This table shows you how much extra moisture is created in your home in a typical day.

Activity	Moisture produced
Two people just being at home for 16 hours	1.5 litres
Taking a bath or shower	1 litre
Drying clothes indoors	4.5 litres
Cooking and using a kettle	3 litres
Washing up	1 litre

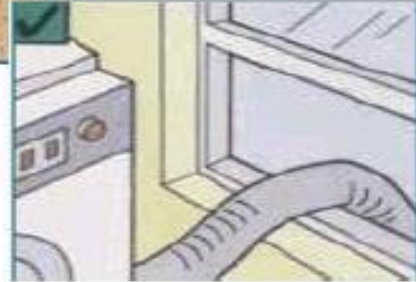
**These activities create an extra 11 litres of moisture every day**

### How to combat condensation

**There are six easy steps to deal with condensation.**

Following them will help keep your home free from condensation and mould.

## 1. Create less moisture

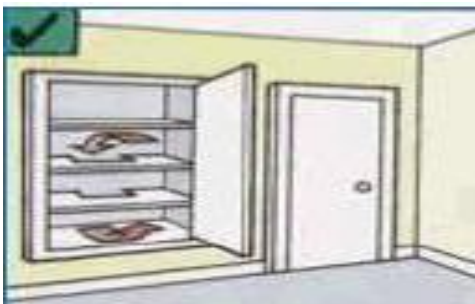


**Cover your pans** when cooking. If you have an extractor fan, turn it on or open the window to let the steam to escape.

**Dry your washing outside** - If this is not possible, use a tumble drier and vent it outside, dry the washing in one room which is heated and ventilated but keep the door closed.

## 2. Air and ventilate to let moisture escape

Always open the windows when cooking and after having a bath to let hot, steamy air out and cool dry air in.



Regularly air the inside of cupboards and wardrobes by leaving their doors open.

### 3. Wipe away excess moisture

Every morning, wipe away moisture from windows and window sills.

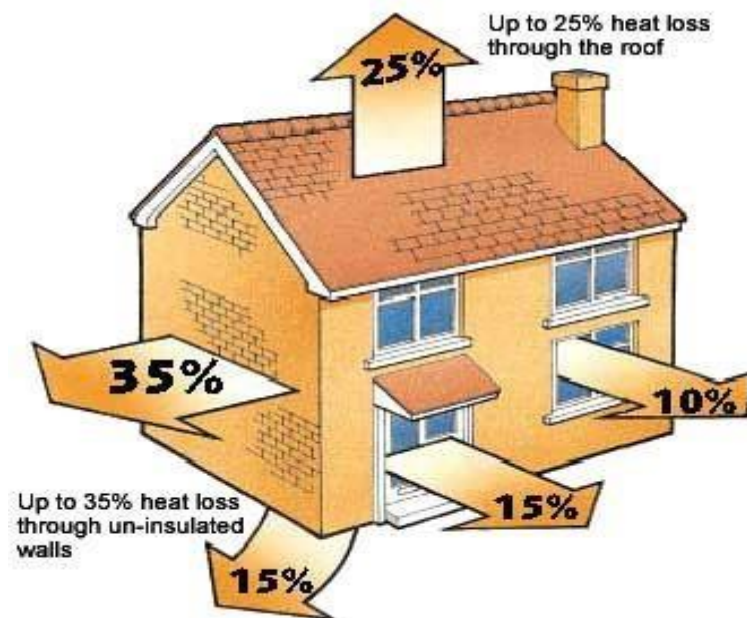


Just opening the window will not clear the moisture.



### 4. Insulate and draught proof your home

This shows how the average home loses heat



## To stop heat escaping from your home

Insulate your loft to a depth of

- ✓ 270mm (10 inches)
- ✓ Insulate your cavity walls
- ✓ Draught proof your windows and external doors



Find out how to heat your home for less by installing energy saving home improvements at <http://www.yesenergysolutions.co.uk/>



01422 880100

### 5. Keep some heating on low all day

- Keep some low background heat on all day and all night, especially in bedrooms, kitchen and the bathroom.

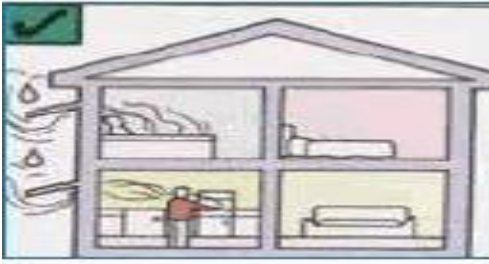
This helps because heating and ventilation increases the movement of air through convection and reduces the likelihood of condensation.

- Avoid using portable gas and paraffin heaters. These produce as much as five litres of moisture a day as the fuel burns.

### 6. Keep wiping, keep airing

By wiping up condensation from windows and sills and opening windows you are removing both water and water vapour from your rooms.





It's cheaper and healthier to heat cool, dry air than warm, moist air.

Keep furniture away from walls so air can circulate behind it.



## What is mould?

Mould spores are invisible to the naked eye. They are always present in the atmosphere, both inside and outside your home.

They only become visible when they land on a surface and multiply.



Mould needs four things to survive:

1. **Food** (starch) obtained from the surface it lands on
2. **Moisture** obtained from the condensation droplets
3. **A suitable temperature to grow** supplied by you
4. **Oxygen** found in the air in your home

Mould growth is mainly dependant on moisture being present. Usually the first sign of a problem is water vapour condensing on windows and other cold surfaces. The second is black mould patches growing on surfaces.

Condensation and mould growth can affect us all, homeowner and tenant alike. Because it is caused by our everyday living activities, we can take the steps needed to reduce it ourselves.

Condensation is the real problem  
Black mould is only a symptom  
Deal with the causes of condensation and you will  
automatically deal with the problem of mould.

### How can I treat mould?

There are several things you can do to treat mould.

- Wipe affected areas with a fungicidal wash from a DIY shop. (Follow the manufacturers' instructions.)
- Dry-clean mildewed clothes and shampoo carpets, but avoid breathing in mould spores.
- After treating affected areas, redecorate with an oil-based sealer or primer, followed by a fungicidal paint



### Stay alert!

**To prevent mould recurring, be aware of how much moisture is in your home. Keep this booklet handy to help you control any future problems with condensation.**



**I have followed the advice in this leaflet and I still have a problem, what do I do next?**

If you have followed the advice in this leaflet, then you should begin to notice a considerable improvement within around 4 to 6 weeks. If the problem persists, it may be due to another cause of damp.

There are three other main causes of damp:



**Rising Damp** - this is rare as a damp proof course prevents this, but can usually be seen by a tide mark above the skirting board.



**Penetrating Damp** - caused by problems with the fabric of the building which means that rainwater is able to get through the walls, roof, windows or doors.



**Plumbing faults or broken or leaking pipes** - rising damp and penetrating damp can usually be easily identified at the early stages. A leaking pipe can be more difficult to identify, and if you suspect you may have one then this should be reported to your landlord.

If you are affected by any of these problems contact your landlord or contact us at Specialist Services



01653 600666

## Find out if you could get help to keep warm

There are a number of schemes to help people stay warm in winter.

The main ones are shown below

Remember qualifying dates or amounts change each year.

- **Warm Home Discount**

£140 discount on your electricity bill if you get Pension Credit and your electricity supplier is part of this scheme.

Call your supplier direct to find out if they offer this discount.

Warm Home Discount Team 0345 603 9439.



- **Winter Fuel Payment**

£100 - £300 is available tax free to everyone born on or before 5 July 1952 to help pay for heating bills. Most payments are made automatically between November and December. Contact them if you think you qualify but haven't received a payment by Christmas.



Winter Fuel Payment helpline 08459 151515.

- **Cold Weather Payment**

People on qualifying benefits receive a £25 payment for each seven day period between 1 November and 31 March when the temperature averages zero degrees or below for seven days. If you think you qualify but haven't received a payment contact your pension centre or Jobcentre Plus office

### Useful phone numbers

Gas (leaks)	0800 111999
Electricity (power cuts)	0800 375675
Malton Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 4111444
Winter Fuel Payments	0845 9151515
Age UK Scarborough	01753 379058
Ryedale District Council	01653 600666
Yorkshire Energy Solutions (YES)	01422 880100

## Write or Call In

Specialist Services  
Ryedale District Council  
Ryedale House,  
Old Malton Road , Malton,  
YO17 7HH



01653 600666



housing@ryedale.gov.uk



## Visit our Website

[www.ryedale.gov.uk](http://www.ryedale.gov.uk)



**This booklet is intended to give you  
general information only**