

REF: 302 CONDENSATION - ADVICE FOR HOUSEHOLDERS

What is condensation?

Condensation is a dampness caused by warm air meeting a cold surface like a window or wall and condensing into water droplets. It also occurs in areas where air does not circulate well. This moisture can create bacteria which forms into a mould that will ruin clothes/ furnishing and provide a health hazard (respiratory illness)

What causes condensation?

Lifestyle

- The use of bottled gas and paraffin heaters.
- The drying of clothes inside the house.
- Steam from the cooking of food in the kitchen.
- Steam from bathing and washing.
- Lack of air circulation within the house.

Building fabric and Heating System

- Insufficient ventilation within the house.
- Poor insulation.
- Insufficient heating.

How can I minimise condensation within my house?

By taking the following steps you can, in many cases, reduce and possibly eliminate condensation within your house:

- Do not use portable gas and/or paraffin heaters except in emergencies.
- Try to avoid drying clothes in your house. If this is not practical, then the door of the room in which the clothes are drying should be kept closed and the room ventilated to the outside air.
- When cooking in the kitchen, it should be ventilated by using the extractor fan, or by opening a window. The kitchen door should also be kept closed to prevent moist air circulating throughout the house.
- When bathing, showering or washing, the bathroom door should be kept closed and the extractor fan, if fitted, switched on and left on until the moisture is back to normal.
- Whenever possible, furniture, such as cupboards, wardrobes, etc. should be kept clear of the walls of rooms to permit air to circulate.
- Keep your house warm and use trickle ventilation to cut down on condensation.

How can I get rid of condensation or mould?

Wipe up any moisture with a dry cloth. If you have a problem with mould growth, there are various ways to remove this including diluted bleach.

By following the actions detailed above, you can help reduce condensation and may stop it completely, however condensation is not the same as penetrating or rising damp.

For more information see SCARF Fact Sheet 301 Check List for Identifying Dampness.

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Mission Statement

SCARF aims to work through partnership to promote sustainable use of energy, eradicate fuel poverty and create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

Core Objectives

- + To provide free impartial and accessible energy efficiency advice and information services to help save energy, save cash and help save the environment.
- + To encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and grant take up for property improvements to achieve affordable warmth.
- + To create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

SCARF Provides

One Stop Energy Advice Shop offers free impartial advice and information:

- + Energy efficiency in the home, business and the community
- + Renewable energy in the home, business and the community
- + Grants for loft and cavity wall insulation
- + Grants for draughtproofing
- + Grants for central heating
- + Grants for renewable energy installations
- + Paying for fuel and fuel suppliers
- + Choice and operation of heating and hot water systems

SCARF also offers:

- + Home visits
- + Home energy checks
- + Presentations and informal training
- + NVQ and City & Guilds Qualifications

