

Household Mould Protection

Factsheet



What is mould?

Mould is a type of fungus that belongs to a group of organisms including mushrooms and yeasts. To allow mould spores to grow and reproduce, a food source (dust, dirt or organic matter) and moisture is required.

Mould can be black, grey, green or white. It often looks like a stain or smudge and may smell musty.

Moulds are present virtually everywhere, indoors and outdoors and can grow in and on materials such as food, furniture, fabrics, carpets, walls, paper, timber and plumbing. Mould can also grow in decaying leaves, stale damp soil and compost.

Controlling mould growth

Parts of the house that are prone to mould growth are areas with:

- condensation or high humidity, such as kitchens, bathrooms and laundries
- restricted ventilation, such as in corners and/or cupboards
- reduced dry heat - such as when the inside temperature is lower than the outside temperature in winter
- ineffective insulation in walls and ceilings.

Steps to reduce mould growth

Keep windows and walls dry inside the home by:

- ventilating rooms with open windows or doors
- or by using extractor fans
- wiping away condensation
- heating rooms with dry heat.

Keep the roof, cladding and guttering in good repair. Ensure that stormwater is discharged to an appropriate outlet.

Family/Lounge Room

Reduce air moisture from kerosene heaters or unflued gas heaters by:

- opening curtains and blinds during the day
- opening windows and doors when possible
- switching to an electric or flued gas heater.

Kitchen

Reduce moisture/humidity levels by:

- using an exhaust fan or opening a window when cooking
- using lids on pots and saucepans
- checking plumbing for leaks.

Bathroom

- Open a window or door or use an exhaust fan when having a shower or bath to control air moisture.
- Clean and dry surfaces that get wet regularly.

Laundry

Reduce air moisture by:

- hanging wet clothes outdoors
- opening a window when using a clothes drier or venting the drier outside
- opening a window or door when using hot water.

Cupboards and Bedrooms

- Open blinds and curtains to warm rooms with sunlight.
- Ensure clothes and shoes are dry before being put away.
- Keep cupboards and bedrooms uncluttered and well ventilated.

Storage Space

- Dispose of any wet, badly damaged or musty smelling items.
- Store dry items in sealed plastic containers.

General Cleaning

- Best method to clean mould is using white vinegar.