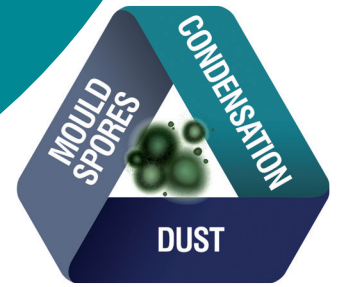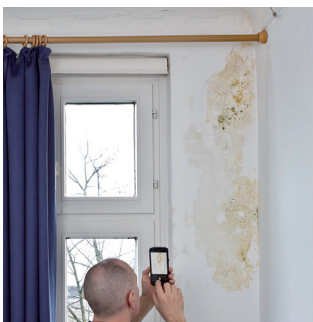# Condensation mould on walls, in wardrobes and on furniture

Condensation mould can form on walls, furniture and in cold spots like the back of wardrobes. This leaflet explains why this happens and what steps you can take to reduce the chances of condensation mould forming on your walls and furniture.

If furniture is placed too close to external walls in your home, the conditions are perfect for condensation to form. Air trapped behind the furniture will cool when it comes into contact with the surface of the wall and releases its moisture. If this soaks into the plaster, the fabric of your furniture or the backs of your wardrobes, then mould can start to grow.

For mould to grow it needs 3 things:

- Mould spores.
- A food source (such as dust or any organic matter)
- Water.

If you remove one of these 3 things, then the mould can't grow on your walls or furniture.

Here are some hints and tips to help you to prevent mould growth:

- Encourage airflow by maintaining a gap between the wall and any furniture. Ideally, this should be at least 10cm wide however, any gap is better than none.
- Keeping surfaces clear will also help the air to circulate more effectively allowing damp air to be replaced by dry air.
- Regularly clean, dust and hoover to remove as much dust as possible.
- Ensure that clothes are completely dry and aired before hanging them in wardrobes.
- Vacuum bags can be used to store clothing that might otherwise be piled up in the wardrobe or that you don't wear very often. The bag will prevent the clothes from absorbing any moisture and keep them dust free.
- Moisture traps can be used in wardrobes and cupboards to absorb any moisture and keep the contents dry.
- Try to maintain a consistent temperature to prevent condensation from forming.
- Keep radiators and heaters clear so that heat can circulate effectively round the room.
- Open the window for 1 – 2 minutes each day to swap any moist air with dry air and encourage movement. There's no need to let the room get cold, if it does, the window has been open too long.

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