

# Household mould

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## What is mould?

Mould is a type of fungi and belongs to a group of micro-organisms which includes mushrooms and yeast.

It needs dust, dirt or organic matter to grow. It can damage clothing, bedding, furnishings and carpet as well as causing health problems such as asthma and other allergic reactions.

It is impossible to get rid of all mould and mould spores indoors; some mould spores will be found floating through the air and in house dust.

The mould spores will not grow if moisture is not present. Indoor mould growth can and should be prevented or controlled by controlling moisture indoors.

## Actions that will help prevent condensation

- Reduce the humidity.
- Increase ventilation or air movement by opening doors and/or windows, when practical. Use fans as needed.
- Cover cold surfaces, such as cold water pipes, with insulation.
- Increase air temperature.

## Actions that will help to reduce humidity

- Vent appliances that produce moisture, such as clothes dryers.
- Use air conditioners and/or de-humidifiers when needed.
- Run the bathroom fan or open the window when showering. Use exhaust fans or open windows whenever cooking, running the dishwasher or dishwashing, etc.

## What tenants can do

- Fans – use any fans installed in bathrooms, kitchen and laundry to remove excess water vapour.
- Laundry– hang wet clothes outside if possible. If using a clothes dryer leave the laundry window open and the internal door closed. If you are in a small unit and find dampness to be a serious problem you may consider drying your clothes at a laundrette.
- Curtains and blinds – sunlight inhibits mould growth so leave curtains and blinds open during the day.
- Maintain an even temperature – it is better to maintain a moderate temperature than to heat up the property occasionally. You may be required to provide your own heating. The property owner is not responsible for any excessive heating bills.
- Un-flued gas heaters or kerosene heaters are not recommended as they release considerable amounts of moisture into a room.
- Dispose of any damp or mould damaged items immediately.
- Store dry items in sealed plastic containers.
- Windows – open windows as often as possible and keep internal doors open to allow air movement through the property. If possible leave one window securely open at all times. It is better to have one window slightly open all of the time than to have a lot of windows open occasionally. Wipe away condensation as soon as possible.
- Change potting mix for indoor plants immediately if mould appears.

I have read and understand my responsibilities related to keeping my new home mould free.

Tenant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tenant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tenant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_