

As we move into the colder months....

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As we move into the colder months, we want to ensure that your home remains comfortable and free from issues such as frozen pipes and condensation. Condensation can lead to dampness and mould, which can affect both your living environment and health.

What Causes Condensation?

Condensation occurs when warm, moist air comes into contact with cooler surfaces, such as windows and walls. This is common in areas with high humidity, especially in kitchens, bathrooms and also living spaces and bedrooms.

Proper heating and ventilation are key to avoiding this. Here are some important tips to help you maintain a warm, well-ventilated environment and help you manage and reduce condensation:

Heating Your Property and Reducing Condensation

1. **Set a Consistent Temperature and Keep Rooms Warm:** Keep your thermostat set to a consistent temperature, ideally between 18°C and 21°C (65°F to 70°F). This helps prevent pipes from freezing and maintaining a consistent temperature throughout your home reduces the likelihood of condensation.
2. **Use Space Heaters Safely:** If using space heaters, make sure they are placed away from flammable materials and are not left unattended.
3. **Check Radiators:** Ensure that radiators are not blocked by furniture or curtains, as this can hinder heat circulation. If part of the radiator doesn't heat up then you may need to bleed them - you can find useful videos on how to do this on youtube.
4. **Seal Drafts:** Check windows and doors for drafts and use weatherstripping or draft stoppers to keep warm air inside.

Ventilating Your Property

1. **Open Windows to Ventilate:** Even in winter, it's important to let fresh air in. Open windows each day to improve air circulation, which will avoid the build up of condensation on cold surfaces which can cause mould.
2. **Use Extractor Fans:** When cooking or showering, use extractor fans to remove excess moisture and prevent condensation, which can lead to dampness. Leave the extractor fan running for an additional 15 Minutes after you leave the room to help remove any remaining moisture that's in the air.
3. **Cover Pots When Cooking:** This helps to minimize the amount of steam released into the air.
4. **Drying Clothes:** If possible, dry clothes outside or use a tumble dryer to prevent excess moisture indoors. If unavoidable, then make sure the room is well ventilated to allow the moisture to escape.
5. **Use a Dehumidifier:** If you notice high levels of moisture in your home, consider using a dehumidifier to help remove excess humidity from the air.
6. **Keep Vents Clear:** Ensure that all air vents and grilles are unobstructed to allow for proper air flow, and clean any dust that may have settled on them.

Preventing Frozen Pipes

1. **Keep Cabinet Doors Open:** During extremely cold weather, open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air to circulate around plumbing.
2. **Let Faucets Drip:** Allowing a slow drip from faucets can help prevent pipes from freezing.
3. **Insulate Pipes:** If you notice any uninsulated pipes in cold areas, consider using pipe insulation to keep them warm.

What to Do if You Notice Condensation

If you see condensation forming, wipe it away promptly to prevent mold growth, use a bleach or mould solution to clean the area and make sure you heat and ventilate the room.

By taking these steps, you can help create a healthier living environment.

If you have any queries or need further assistance, feel free to reach out.

Stay warm!