

Mould in the Home



How To Prevent Mould In Your Home

What this fact sheet covers:

- How to prevent mould
- How to remove mould
- What to do if you find mould



Mould can be found anywhere there is dampness on a surface.

This may be from condensation caused by high humidity, for

example on a bathroom wall or ceiling or just an area that water is always present, like a kitchen sink or laundry. Rooms that are dark and/or lack natural light and have poor ventilation are more prone to mould than other areas in your home.

It is important to minimise mould growth especially inside the home as it can have serious health effects such as headaches, hay fever, runny nose and allergic reaction and can be particularly dangerous if someone in your household has a lung condition, like asthma.

Report any areas you are concerned about immediately to Westside housing.

How to prevent mould

To reduce the likelihood of mould growth in your home:

- **Open windows and doors** to provide fresh air and reduce the humidity levels. Ventilation is key!
- **Report any areas** you are concerned about to us, with photos if possible.
- **Allow sunlight into rooms** by opening blinds and curtains during the day.
- **Minimise** the number of indoor plants you have or look for ones that don't need much water.
- **Clothes and shoes** check to make sure they are dry before they are put away
- **Clothes dryers** should be well ventilated. If you are using one, try opening a window to avoid moisture build up on walls and ceilings.

Mould Control

How to remove mould

Early treatment is easier than allowing mould to take hold and spread.

Don't try to dry brush the mouldy area as it will release large numbers of spores into the air which can cause an allergic reaction in some people and spread the mould further.

What can you use?

There are several commercial mould treatments available like Exit Mould and Selleys Rapid Mould.

You can also use more environmentally friendly solutions that listed below. You may need to treat the area more than once to completely remove the mould.

To clean:

- Wear gloves and eye protection and do not breath in dust when cleaning
- Mix a solution of 80% vinegar and 20% water
- Wet a cloth with the vinegar solution and wipe the area
- Rinse the cloth in the vinegar solution and wipe the area again
- If it's a large area; make a new solution, wet cloth and wipe over again

Persistence is the key

If mould reappears after your first attempt you'll need to wash the area down again. It only takes a few spores to regrow, multiply and bring the problem back. It may be necessary to treat mould on a seasonal basis with the onset of cold, moist conditions brought on by winter.

If you suspect a water leak or if the mould covers a large area, please contact our office as soon as possible.

To reduce mould at home

Do

- Keep all windows and curtains open during the day
- Keep bathroom exhaust fan on when using the shower (open doors/windows)
- Wipe dry surface condensation in mould prone areas
- Use a heater to warm up rooms in winter
- Wipe wet walls, benchtops, around baths and bathroom floors dry
- Dry wet clothes outdoors when possible
- If using a clothes dryer, keep door and window open
- Report any pooling water around the outside of the house to us

Do not

- Leave wet clothes, towels, linen or shoes in bedrooms to dry
- Place kitchen sponges or tea towels in cupboards when wet
- Keep cupboards closed if they are wet or damp. If you have wet or damp cupboards report it to Westside as soon as possible on 8155 6070

Contact details

8155 6070

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