

What to do about mould in your home



**Link
Wentworth**
Providing homes, building futures.

Mould is a fungus that grows in damp areas. It's usually green or black and can grow on walls, clothes or on furniture in areas with little air flow or ventilation. Mould produces tiny spores which are carried in the air and can cause damage if inhaled by people that are sensitive or allergic to them.

Link Wentworth wants you to live safely and comfortably in your home, which is why we take mould seriously.

Who is responsible for mould in your home?

Your landlord has a legal obligation to provide a rental property that is fit to live in and is properly maintained. At the same time, you have a responsibility to keep your home clean and report any damage to Link Wentworth.

If you have noticed a mould problem in your home that is persistent and unable to be fixed with routine cleaning and ventilation, you need to let Link Wentworth know immediately. Call us on **13 14 21** and we will work with you to sort out a solution.

How can I prevent mould growing in my home?

You can prevent mould from growing in your home by reducing humidity and ensuring your home is properly ventilated or 'aired out'. The following tips will help you do this:

- Use fans where possible, and exhaust fans when showering, cooking or doing laundry.
- Keep windows and doors open to keep air circulating, if the weather permits.
- Try not to push furniture up against walls.
- Declutter rooms and wardrobes.
- Don't use kerosene and unflued gas heaters as they contribute to the buildup of moisture.
- Try not to use a humidifier.
- Limit the number of fish tanks and indoor plants.
- If you use a dryer, make sure a window is open or the house is well ventilated. Do not dry clothes in front of a heater—this increases air moisture and is also a fire hazard.
- Report all water leaks or plumbing problems as soon as they occur, including burst water pipes, leaking roofs or blocked rain gutters.
- Use de-humidifiers or moisture absorbers (available from hardware stores and some supermarkets).
- Regularly wipe surfaces that get damp.

What do I do if I find mould in my home?

You should remove mould as soon as it appears. The earlier you find and treat mould, the easier it is to prevent it from reoccurring.

Make sure you wear safety gear—including a dust mask and eye protection—when cleaning mould. Dilute vinegar in water (4 parts vinegar to 1 part water), spray it onto the mould and wipe it off with a microfibre cloth. If this doesn't work, you may need a diluted bleach solution or a commercial product. Always refer to the user instructions, ventilate the area and protect your skin, eyes and clothes. Change the rinsing water and any sponges used regularly.

If you need more information, please contact Link Wentworth on **13 14 21** or email enquiries@linkwentworth.org.au

Do you need a translator?

TIS National provides access to phone and on-site interpreting services in over 150 languages. Call **13 14**