

Property Care: prevention and treatment of ordinary household mould

This fact sheet provides information regarding the treatment and prevention of ordinary household mould. Sometimes damp, dark and poorly ventilated conditions will encourage the growth of mould in properties. It is important to try and prevent ordinary household mould by encouraging ventilation in your property and cleaning regularly.

How to prevent mould growing

Mould is a fungal growth. There are many ways you can help prevent the growth of mould in your home:

- open windows and doors as this will increase the circulation of fresh air within your home
- open blinds and curtains which will allow sun light into your home throughout the day
- keep the inside of your home dry and wipe any moisture off windows and walls
- only have a small number of indoor plants
- make sure all clothes and shoes are dry before you store them away
- open curtains and blinds during the day if using a kerosene heater
- when using a clothes dryer with a vent located at the front of the dryer make sure a window is open to prevent moisture build up
- ensure the exhaust fan is on while having a hot bath or shower to decrease the amount of moisture build up on walls and ceiling. Once finished, open the bathroom window for further ventilation and air flow.
- use the exhaust fan or range hood when cooking.

How to remove mould

Once mould has set in, it is much harder to remove, so the quicker mould is removed when you first see it, the easier it is to manage.

To remove mould, make sure you use a clean cloth or sponge. The following methods can be used to remove mould:

- use white distilled vinegar and pour it into a spray bottle without watering it down. Spray the vinegar onto the mouldy surface and leave it to sit for an hour. Finally, wipe the area clean with water and allow the surface to dry.
- use commercially made products specifically advertising the safe removal of mould. Make sure you following the directions on the product carefully
- mix one part bi-carb soda and one part vinegar in a spray bottle and spray onto the affected area.

Please always ensure you have the windows opened in the room you are using cleaning to enable the circulation of fresh air.

Do NOT dry brush the mouldy area.

If you dry brush the mouldy area it could release spores into the air which can cause allergic reactions in some people and can promote mould growth.

Systemic mould

If you think the mould in your home is caused by any of the following, please contact your Client Service Officer for further investigation:

- water intrusion (water coming in from outside the home) through the roof or the walls
- rising damp (mould rising up from the floorboards along the wall).