

## MOULD AND CONDENSATION IN YOUR HOME

Indoor condensation can cause damage to fabrics, discolour paint and wallpaper but, more importantly, it promotes conditions suitable for the growth of mould.

When water is heated it changes into vapour. Condensation occurs when the vapour cools and changes it back into liquid. When air is humid condensation will occur at the slightest drop in temperature.

## WHAT IS MOULD?

Mould is a fungal growth. It grows in homes under the right conditions of dampness, darkness & poor ventilation: e.g. bathrooms or kitchens, cluttered storage or basement areas, flooded areas, plumbing pipes and outdoors in humid environments. Walls, timber, carpet, furniture and fabrics can harbour mould if they stay damp for extended periods of time.

## CONTROLLING CONDENSATION AND MOULD

- ☑ Open windows and doors to ventilate your home and reduce the humidity level, especially when showering or cooking
- ☑ Regularly clean exhaust fans and rangehood to ensure they are working effectively
- ☑ Do not have long hot showers
- ☑ If you notice condensation forming on walls or the ceiling, wipe it down and dry the area thoroughly
- ☑ Leave the internal doors open to allow air circulation through the property
- ☑ Open curtains and blinds to allow natural light into your home

## CLEANING

- ☑ Clean your bathroom frequently;
- ☑ Clothes & shoes must be dry before storing them;
- ☑ Clean evaporation trays in air conditioners & refrigerators frequently;
- ☑ Wipe away moisture on windows and walls to keep your home dry;

## REMOVING MOULD

Eradicate mould when it occurs. It is hard to remove when it has been there a while;

There are several treatments for mould:

- ☑ Use mould removal sprays / cleaners which are available from supermarkets and are specifically made to remove mould
- ☑ Tea Tree Oil is effective. A 3% solution or 2 teaspoons in a spray bottle with 2 cups of water will suffice. Shake well before each use;
- ☑ Kill mould from surfaces with an 80% white **fermented** vinegar solution (available from supermarkets). After applying the mixture, leave for at least 20 minutes and then lightly sponge with clean water;
- ☑ Remove the mould physically. Killing, but not removing the mould may allow it to grow back;

**REMEMBER: The only lasting cure for mould is to reduce the dampness and to clean regularly!**