

# UNDERSTANDING DAMP & MOULD



Damp is the build up of moisture in a property. It affects building materials (such as walls, floors, ceilings, foundations) and/or home furnishings and belongings (such as carpets, curtains, wallpaper, furniture and clothing). In addition to causing damage, damp can also lead to the growth of mould and other microorganisms.

## IDENTIFYING TYPES OF DAMP IN YOUR PROPERTY

**CONDENSATION DAMP** – happens when moisture generated inside the home cools and condenses onto colder parts of the buildings (for example window frames, corners and low points on walls behind sofas or wardrobes).

**PENETRATING DAMP** – is water that gets into the building from outside due to defects in the walls, roofs, windows or floors.

**RISING DAMP** – is moisture from the ground that rises up through parts of the buildings in contact with the ground (walls and floors). Often it is due to defective damp proof courses and membranes.

**TRAUMATIC DAMP** – can be caused by leaking water from waste and heating pipes, overflowing baths or sinks, burst pipes or defective water storage vessels inside the building. Traumatic damp can also originate from outside the property, for example from another building or from environmental flooding.

**MOULD** – Mould is a type of fungus which grows in moist environments. Mould can cause adverse health effects as well as damage to buildings.

**For further information and advice,  
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