

## Mould in Student Properties

Mould can be a problem in some student houses especially in winter during periods of rain and damp weather. It can cause mould stains on the walls and furniture, and make timber window frames rot. It is vital you take note of the following to mitigate the effects of mould in the property.

- Mould is usually caused by excessive condensation which is purely down to the amount of moisture in the air. With at least four adults in the house showering every day, plus cooking and the big no of drying clothes in the house, the moisture level in the air increases so much that it can't all escape, causing damp and mould.
- **Rooms:** The first signs are usually around windows, where black mould will appear. In addition to this, it will form in the silicone sealant around the bath, shower, and sinks. It may spread to the walls and the ceiling in the bathroom.
- If your furniture is against an exterior wall to the property, mould may also form behind here to it can spread to your clothes and your shoes.
- **Appliances:** Mould will also form in the washing machine powder drawer and inside the machine. This is usually black. If food is left in the fridge then it will form here too and this can spread.

As tenants you have a responsibility to keep the property in a good state of repair, and take steps to ensure it does not become a problem.

- When showering and bathing, ensure you ventilate the room afterwards by opening the window and using extractor fans where provided.
- In the kitchen, use the kitchen fan and open windows to allow moisture to escape.
- In the morning, if condensation is spotted on the window, wipe it down with kitchen roll or a cloth.
- Do not dry clothes on the radiators in the house. This is usually the biggest cause of mould problems. Use a clothes dryer or the washing line outside.
- If you start to see the first signs of black mould, it can be cleaned away easily using a bleach solution or specific mould spray. Make sure the cloth used is disposed of or disinfected properly afterwards to avoid further contamination.
- Ventilate your room each day by using the provided door stop to let air in.
- Open your windows daily.
- Heat your room daily during cold spells
- If you have tried all of the above and still have a problem, we can provide a dehumidifier to help extract moisture from the air in your room, this needs to be kept running at all times.

***The longer the mould is left the worse it will get, so please inform us if you have a problem.***