

4 easy steps to prevent damp in your student house

Damp and mould can not only be unsightly, smelly and generally unpleasant, it can be bad for your health too. Believe it or not, most of the time, these issues are caused by the tenants lifestyle rather than the landlord not doing their bit.

We've put together this quick guide on how you can prevent damp in your student house, and reduce the chances of mould and damp becoming an issue during your tenancy.

Step 1 – Fix the problem

Ask your landlord to address any damp and mould issues at the start of your tenancy, or better still, check for mould before you sign a contract. Landlords can get rid of existing damp and mould by thoroughly cleaning walls, ceilings, hard floors and window frames with fungicidal wash and by using mould preventing paint. White vinegar is also great for killing the bacteria that causes mould, but be sure to check with your landlord before trying any home remedies.

Step 2 – Eliminate excess moisture

Turn on your extractor fan or open a window when taking a bath or shower and when cooking, particularly on the hob. As noisy as they are, they work wonders and can prevent that nasty black mould forming in your house.

Drying clothes indoors pumps lots of moisture into the air. If you have an enclosed garden, dry your clothes outside, and if there's no garden you should be provided with a clothes drier so make the most of it!

Step 3 – Increase ventilation

Open the windows in the kitchen and bathroom and close the doors to limit moisture from spreading to other parts of the house. Even when it is cold, it's important to let the air circulate and remove excess moisture from the air. Don't forget to ventilate cupboards and wardrobes too!

Step 4 – Heat your property

Ensure that your house is kept at a nice warm temperature throughout the year. We're not saying turn your heating on full all year round, but keeping a warm temperature is a great way to fend off damp and mould. Be careful not to overheat, hot houses can also cause condensation which can cause damp and mould.

The key to avoiding damp and mould in your house is having a balanced combination of heating, insulation and ventilation.

If you have any concerns, speak to your landlord, or contact Hull City Council's Environmental Health Team on 01482 300 300