

Damp and mould

During winter we see more issues with damp and mould in your homes.

You can look out for mould by checking the corners and borders of your home for any dark spots or patches. Mould can also create a musty smell in the home.

Top tips to reduce mould in your home:

- Ventilate rooms by turning on extractor fans or opening windows slightly when you're doing things like cooking, showering or drying clothes.
- It's recommended to keep rooms between 18-21°C to keep you warm and healthy.
- Wipe condensation off windows and window sills as often as you can.

Remember, if you spot any signs of black mould, even a small amount, you should report it to the repairs team straight away. Treating it sooner rather than later can stop the mould spreading.

For more tips visit www.portsmouth.gov.uk/housetalk

To contact the repairs support team about damp, mould, window opening restrictors or asbestos, email repairssupportteam@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or call **023 9284 1311**.



If you have a balcony, it's important to be aware of safety for you and your family. We've put together some guidelines:

- Use window opening restrictors. If you don't have them or they're not working, contact us and we'll install new ones.
- Keep your balcony door locked when not in use.
- Never allow young children access to a balcony without an adult present.
- If you have young children, consider installing a child-proof gate that you can lock when you're not in the room and don't want to lock the balcony door.

Here's a few other things to remember to keep your balcony safe:

- Never lean over, sit or climb on the balcony wall or railing.
- Never try to pass items to someone on another balcony.
- Never try to climb onto another balcony from your balcony.
- Keep balcony furniture away from the railing, and heavy enough so children can't drag it to climb up on.
- Don't store waste on balconies (this includes BBQs, gas bottles and heaters).
- White goods like fridges should **not** be stored or used on balconies.
- If you smoke on a balcony, extinguish cigarettes properly - do not discard them on or over your balcony.
- Don't modify your balcony.
- Remember that netting to prevent birds accessing your balcony is not safety netting.

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