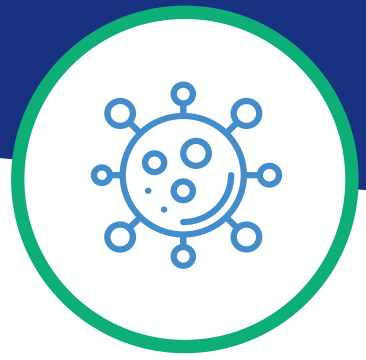


MOULD IN THE HOME

SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING FACT SHEET

For your health, it is important to take steps to prevent or remove mould from your home.



WHAT IS MOULD?

Mould is a fungi that grows both indoors and outdoors. It needs moisture and nutrients to grow. Mould is usually green or black, and you may find it on walls, clothes or on furniture. Mould grows in areas that are damp or wet, with little air flow or ventilation.

IS MOULD DANGEROUS?

Some mould can be detrimental to your health, particularly if you suffer from asthma. Mould exists in most houses however sometimes, especially when the weather has been wet and humid, it can undergo rapid growth. In these situations its important to identify the cause of the mould and do something about it.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Responsibility for the removal of mould is quite a complex issue and depends largely on what is causing the mould. If the mould is being caused by a structural fault in the property like a leaking roof then this is the responsibility of your landlord. If, however the mould is being caused because of poor ventilation and the windows are never opened to facilitate adequate airflow then responsibility is placed on the tenant.

WHAT DO I DO IF I FIND MOULD IN MY HOME?

You should remove mould as soon as it appears:

- Wear safety gear (gloves, a dust mask and eye protection).
- Spary with either mould killer spray or vinegar diluted in water (4-parts vinegar to a 1-part water) and wipe off with a damp cloth after a few minutes.
- Apply a paste of bi-carb soda & vinegar to the affected area. When completely dry, wipe off with a soft cloth or paper towel.
- Once you have removed the mould, take steps to reduce condensation so it does not regrow.

HOW TO PREVENT MOULD GROWING IN YOUR HOME?

There are some easy steps you can take to prevent mould growing and ensure compliance with your lease:

1. ENSURE PROPER VENTILATION

- Use fans where posible, and exhaust fans when showering, cooking or doing laundry.
- Keep windows and doors open, when weather permits and it is safe to do so, to keep air circulating.
- Don't push furniture up against walls and try not to clutter rooms or wardrobes.
- Do not block off the sub floor around your house

2. REDUCE HUMIDITY

- Don't use kerosene and unflued gas heaters as they contribute to the buildup of moisture.
- Limit the use of humidifiers/vaporisers.
- Limit the number of fish tanks and indoor plants.
- Do not dry clothes in front of a heater as this increases air moisture and is also a fire hazard.
- Open your windows or use an extactor fan while cooking.

3. CONTROL MOISTURE OR DAMPNES

- Fix or report all water leaks or plumbing problems as soon as they occur.
- Use de-humidifiers or moisture absorbers.
- Regularly wipe surfaces that get damp.

**If you need more information please call
1300 757 885**