If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. For more information, visit: www.relayservice.gov.au





OPENING DOORS To Affordable Housing

# **Housing Authority Offices**

Head Office 99 Plain Street East Perth 6004 Tel: (08) 9222 4666 Toll free: 1800 093 325

#### METROPOLITAN OFFICES

Armadale Shop 2A, Armadale Shopping Centre Cnr Commerce Ave & Third Road Armadale 6112 Tel: (08) 9391 1600

**Bentley** Please see Victoria Park

Cannington 17 Manning Road Cannington 6107 Tel: (08) 9350 3244

**City Office** 605 Wellington Street Perth 6000 Tel: (08) 9476 2444

Fremantle 42 Queen Street Fremantle 6160 Tel: (08) 9432 5300

Joondalup Unit 4, 7 Wise Street Joondalup 6027 Tel: (08) 9404 3300

Kwinana 2 Stidworthy Way Kwinana 6167 Tel: (08) 9411 9500

**Mandurah** 1/17 Sholl Street Mandurah 6210 Tel: (08) 9583 6100

Midland 21 Old Great Northern Highway Midland 6056 Tel: (08) 9250 9191

Mirrabooka 8 Sudbury Road Mirrabooka 6061 Tel: (08) 9345 9655 Victoria Park 269 Albany Highway Victoria Park 6100 Tel: (08) 9350 3700

#### GREAT SOUTHERN

**Albany** 131 Aberdeen Street Albany 6330 Tel: (08) 9845 7144

Katanning 6 Daping Street Katanning 6317 Tel: (08) 9891 1800

#### SOUTH WEST

Bunbury 22 Forrest Avenue Bunbury 6230 Tel: (08) 9792 2111

Busselton Suite 1A, 9 Harris Road Busselton 6280 Tel: (08) 9781 1300

Manjimup Unit 10, 30-32 Rose Street Manjimup 6258 Tel: (08) 9771 7800

#### GOLDFIELDS

**Esperance** 92 Dempster Street Esperance 6450 Tel: (08) 9072 3000 **Kalgoorlie** Unit 1-2, 84-96 Brookman Street Kalgoorlie 6430 Tel: (08) 9093 5200

#### MID WEST

**Carnarvon** 30 Robinson Street Carnarvon 6701 Tel: (08) 9941 6500

**Geraldton** 201 Marine Terrace Geraldton 6530 Tel: (08) 9923 4444 Meekatharra 14 Main Street Meekathara 6642 Tel: (08) 9956 5000

#### PILBARA

Karratha The Quarter HQ Level 2, 20 Sharpe Ave Karratha 6714 Tel: (08) 9159 1700

**South Hedland** Cnr Brand & Tonkin Sts South Hedland 6722 Tel: (08) 9160 2800

#### WEST KIMBERLEY

**Broome** Corner of Frederick and Weld Streets Broome 6725 Tel: (08) 9158 3600

Derby West Kimberley House Lot 265 Loch Street Derby 6728 Tel: (08) 9158 4000

#### EAST KIMBERLEY

Halls Creek Lots 72 & 73 Great Northern Hwy Halls Creek 6770 Tel: (08) 9168 9300

Kununurra 16 Coolibah Drive Kununurra 6743 Tel: (08) 9166 5100

#### WHEATBELT

Merredin 27 Mitchell Street Merredin 6415 Tel: (08) 9081 3800

Narrogin Government Building 11-13 Park Street Narrogin 6312 Tel: (08) 9881 9400

Northam 5 Elizabeth Place Northam 6401 Tel: (08) 9690 1900

www.housing.wa.gov.au

# Preventing Dampness and Mould



# **Preventing Dampness and Mould**

### **Good ventilation**

Dampness or condensation occurs when there is a build-up of warm moist air in a poorly ventilated room.

It can be caused by:

- Steam from cooking and/or washing dishes
- Steam from the bathroom
- Drying damp clothes inside the house
- Using certain types of heaters, for example, gas heaters.

Good ventilation can minimise the problem. This replaces the moist air with cool dry air.

To ensure good ventilation in the home, keep room ventilators clean, keep internal doors open when using any heating and make sure windows and doors are open whenever possible. This is especially important if the house has been locked up all day and you are using room heaters at night.

### Mould

Mould or mildew is a form of fungus which is spread mainly by air spores. These spores will grow on any surface in the home. It thrives wherever the air is moist. It also needs something to feed on. The two most common food sources are ingredients in wall and ceiling paints and household fluff or dust that has absorbed cooking fumes.



# **Preventing mould**

Mould can be prevented by:

- Dry circulating air to stop mould from growing
- Making sure damp footwear and clothes are not put away in wardrobes or dark confined spaces
- Wiping condensation off walls and windows whenever it appears
- Washing curtains and wiping down furniture.

## How to get rid of mould

If you have a mould problem, follow the steps below:

- Before cleaning any mould, try and find the cause of the mould. For example, lack of ventilation or possible blocked gutters
- It is not recommended to use bleach for removing mould
- Wipe down the affected surfaces with a solution of eight parts white vinegar to two parts water (800ml to 200ml). You should wear protective gloves and eyewear to protect yourself from splashes. Use a microfibre cloth and rinse the dirty cloth regularly in a separate container of clean water. Change cloths when required as dirty cloths spread the mould rather than remove it
- Make sure all the surfaces are cleaned to ensure total treatment of the affected areas
- Repeat the vinegar solution treatment periodically to prevent the mould from coming back
- A solution of tea tree oil is also effective. A mixture of two teaspoons in a spray bottle with two cups of water will suffice. Shake well before use.

Persistent mould may be due to some other cause such as broken roof tiles, uncleared gutters or downpipes or internal water leaks.

Please contact Housing Direct on 1300 137 344 to report continuing problems.