

# preventing damp and condensation

## Understanding damp and condensation in your home

It is important to understand the possible causes of condensation so that you can try to prevent the problems that condensation can cause. Condensation, if not managed, can lead to the development of damp and mould. It is important that as a tenant you try to control this because if problems are found to be caused by the way that you have lived in the property, you could be held responsible for associated repairs.

Some ordinary daily activities produce a lot of moisture very quickly. There are some videos on youtube that give ideas and tips on ways to avoid and manage condensation and these are worth a look. Take the following basic steps to reduce the condensation in your home:

### 1. Produce less moisture

- Cover pans and do not leave kettles boiling.
- Dry washing outdoors if you can, or put it in the bathroom with the door closed and the window open or fan on. If you have a tumble-dryer make sure you vent it to the outside (unless it is the self-condensing type).

### 2. Ventilate to remove the moisture

- You can ventilate your home without making draughts. Some ventilation is needed to get rid of moisture that is being produced all the time, much of which comes from breath. Keep a small window ajar or a trickle-ventilator open when someone is in the room.
- You need much more ventilation in the kitchen and bathroom when cooking, washing up, bathing and drying clothes. This means means opening the windows wider.
- Close kitchen and bathroom doors when

these rooms are in use, even if they have extractor fans. This helps stop the moisture reaching other rooms, especially bedrooms, which are often colder and more likely to suffer condensation.

- Ventilate cupboards and wardrobes. Avoid putting too many things in them as that stops the air circulating. Leave space between the back of the wardrobe and the wall. Put floor-mounted furniture on blocks to allow air to flow underneath (but remember to put things back as they were when you give up your tenancy).

### 3. Heat your home a little more

- In cold weather, keep low background heating on all day, even when no one is at home. This is very important in flats and other dwellings where bedrooms are not above a warm living room. The thermostat setting will help control heating and costs. This can also often be a more cost effective way of heating than leaving the heating off when you are out and turning it back on when you return.
- Dehumidifiers can also reduce condensation in warm rooms with a lot of moisture, but they are of little use in cold damp rooms and offer only a temporary (and expensive) fix.

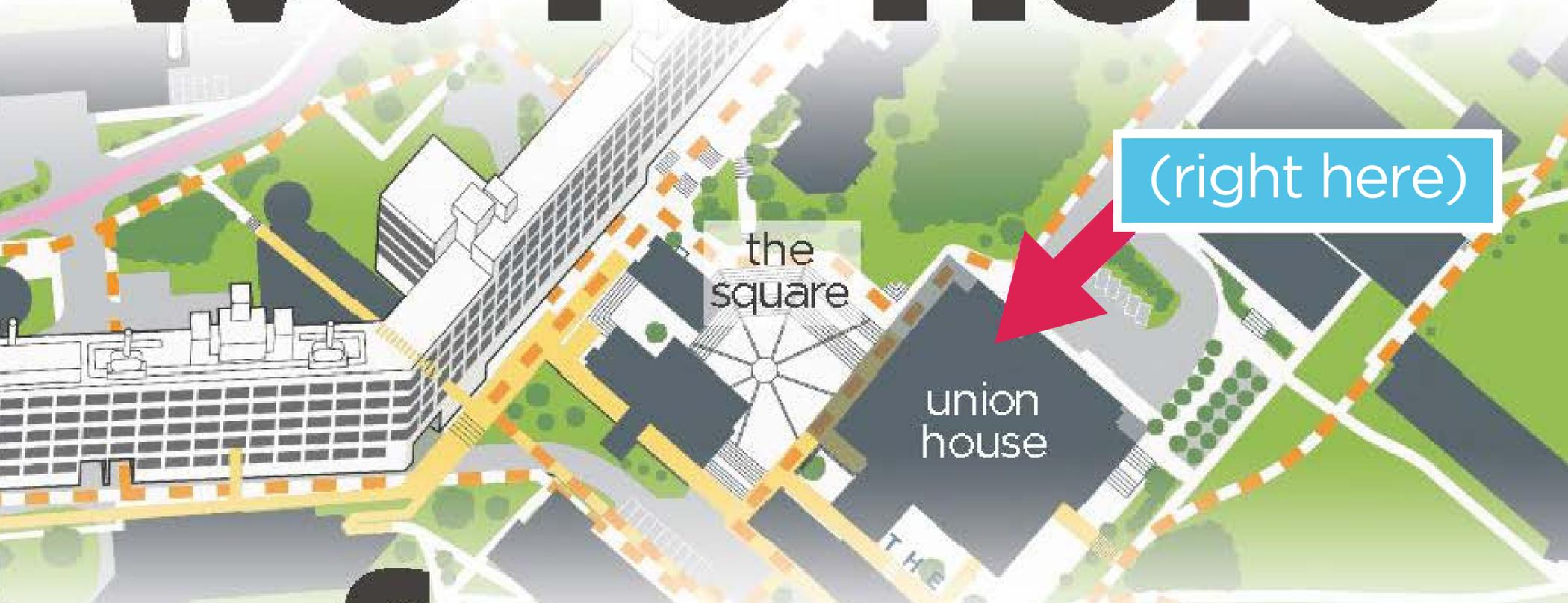
### 4. Insulate and draught-proof

- Check your landlord has fitted these where necessary, as lack of insulation (particularly in the loft) often gives rise to condensation.

For further information please see:

[www.norwich.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3175/controlling\\_condensation\\_and\\_mould\\_in\\_your\\_home.pdf](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3175/controlling_condensation_and_mould_in_your_home.pdf).

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