

preventing damp & condensation

LIVE
WELL

understand 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 it can cause.

Condensation, if not managed, can lead to the development of damp and mould. As a tenant you should 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:

create less moisture

- Cover pans and don't 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. Avoid drying washing on radiators
- If you have a tumble-dryer, vent it to the outside (unless it is the self-condensing type)

ventilate

- Ventilation is needed to get rid of moisture that is constantly being produced, much of which comes from breathing. Keep a small window ajar or a trickle-vent open whenever someone is in a room
- You need extra ventilation in the kitchen and bathroom when cooking, washing up, bathing and drying clothes. This 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 move out)



turn up the heat a little

- 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 room. Use the thermostat settings to control heating and costs. This can also 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
- Keeping the house adequately heated in cold weather will protect against burst pipes
- 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. However they can be useful if you have had flooding

insulation and draft proofing

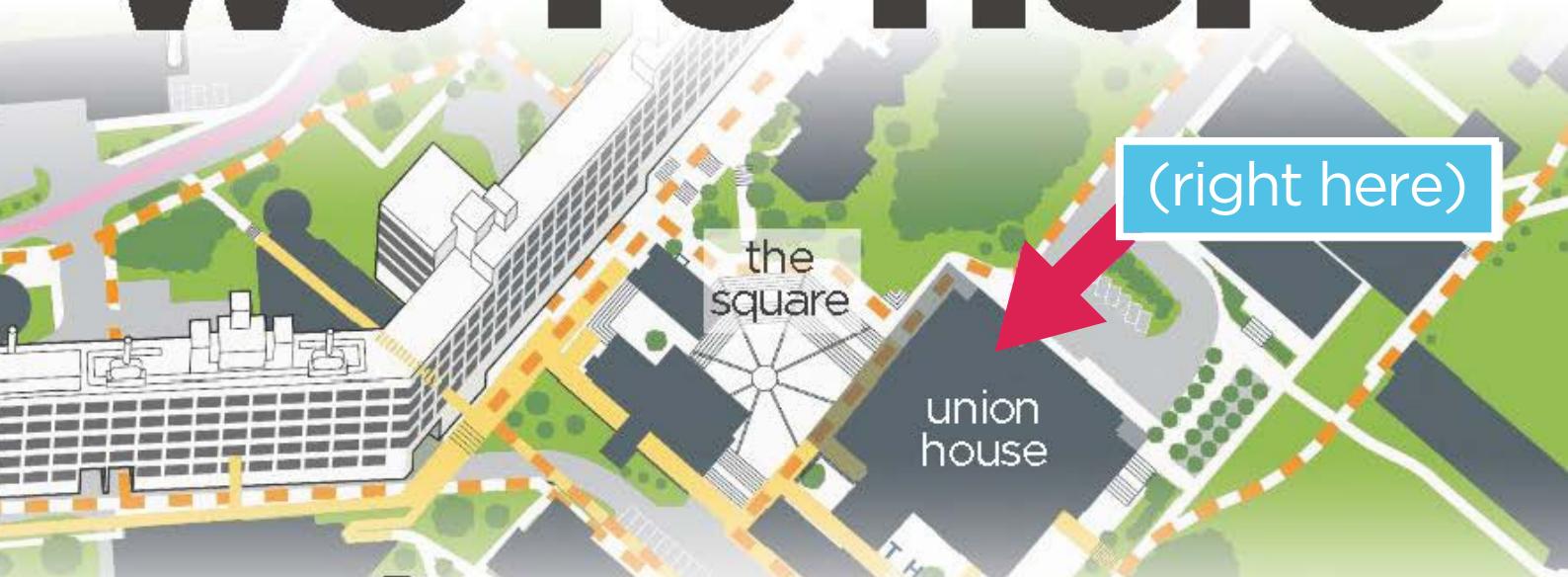
- Check your landlord has fitted these, as a lack of insulation (particularly in the loft) often gives rise to condensation in cold weather
- Double glazing and cavity wall insulation are very energy efficient, so look out for properties to rent that have these.

Click [here](#) for further information from Norwich City Council's website.

www.uea.su/livewell



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