

## Help us take up the fight against mould ...

### Where does it come from? And how can I prevent it?

Mould is always caused by dampness, which is why bathrooms are especially prone. When mould occurs in wet rooms, this is virtually always due to incorrect ventilation. The risk of mould fungus appearing is also much higher in winter.



### For this reason, the following rules must be observed:

- **Every morning** directly after getting up it is important to cross-ventilate. This is because people produce up to one litre of water during their sleep, and this is emitted into the room in the form of steam.
- **Ventilate briefly and intensely after every shower and bath** and **do not open the bathroom door again until this process is complete.**
- **Ensure additional cross-ventilation two to three times a day:** leave all windows completely open for five to ten minutes, do not tilt the windows
- When cooking, put a lid on the saucepan or use a steam cooker. This saves time and energy
- **Do not place large items of furniture against the outside wall**
- In the case of smaller items of furniture a **space** of at least **five to ten centimetres** must be kept from the outside wall



### How do I identify signs of mould?

If your **windows are steamed up**, this is a **clear indication** that the air in your apartment is too damp and urgently requires more ventilation. In this case this is a much increased likelihood of mould forming. The first sign of growing mould is a **slightly musty, damp smell** which remains even after ventilation. Nothing is visible at this point, however, and simple treatment of the walls with a substance such as strong alcohol or vinegar can prevent mould from actually forming. If the walls remain untreated, **yellowish, greyish or greenish spots** will appear: these then spread over an increasingly large area and become **darker, possibly even turning black**. Mould generally forms in bathrooms, in the corners of ceilings or floors, above skirting boards, on ceilings, around windows or under window sills.



**There are countless types of mould fungi and virtually none of those that occur in Switzerland constitute a real hazard to healthy people.**



### If mould occurs: what I can do about it?

If mould does occur, you as the **tenant are responsible for removing it**. For this purpose we recommend using an appropriate fungicide spray available from chemists or DIY stores. In addition, you are **required to report** any mould which you are unable to remove.

**Thank you for your energetic efforts in this matter.**

## Incorrect ventilation – a waste of energy

Sustainability is all the rage – be sure to jump on the bandwagon!

We constantly see tilt windows or outer windows that are left open. It is tempting to do this, but in fact it has nothing but disadvantages. In the **winter months** in particular, this practice **makes no ecological sense whatsoever**. Proper heating and ventilation is not only better for the environment, it is also healthier.

When you leave a window open, fresh air enters the apartment but the walls are cooled and a lot of energy is wasted. Correct ventilation avoids a high level of air humidity and substantial energy loss, as well as maintaining a healthy room climate.

For further information on the subject of ventilation, please refer to our mould information sheet.

## Correct ventilation – but how?

- **Cross-ventilate at least twice a day for five to ten minutes**

This involves opening all windows and doors. The short period of time prevents floors, ceilings and walls from cooling down so the entire apartment doesn't have to be heated up again – a senseless waste of energy.

- After every **shower or bath, briefly leave the bathroom window fully open with the door closed.**

The closed door prevents the moisture from being transferred to other rooms in the draft. If there is no window or ventilator, open the shower curtain and door – this at least allows the air to circulate.

Incidentally: a clear indication of **insufficient ventilation** is either a smell of stale air, **condensation moisture** on the **windows** or **fogged glasses on entering the apartment.**



## Outer windows and tilt windows – special cases

If an outer window or tilt window is left permanently open, **heating oil consumption increases significantly** during the winter months; this also facilitates the growth of mould.

- In the case of outer windows, **open both windows and cross-ventilate.**
- For ventilation purposes, **tilt windows** should also only be opened briefly **but fully** – i.e. not just tilted.
- **Do not leave tilt windows and outer windows permanently open**