

# PORTWAY HOUSING ASSOCIATION

## FACT SHEET

### Mould

Mould is a fungal growth. It needs the following conditions to grow:

- Dampness
- Darkness or the lack of light
- Poor ventilation

#### Prevention

To reduce the likelihood of mould growth in your home you need to take the following steps:

- Open windows and doors to provide fresh air in the home and reduce the humidity levels
- Allow sunlight into rooms by opening blinds and curtains during the day
- Keep windows and walls dry inside the home by wiping away condensation when it occurs
- Keep the number of indoor plants to a minimum
- Make sure clothes and shoes are dry before they are put away
- Kerosene heaters increase the moisture in the air - if you do use a kerosene heater, open curtains and blinds during the day and whenever possible open windows and doors so that air can flow through the room
- If you use a clothes drier with a vent on the front, open a window so that moisture doesn't build up on the walls and ceilings
- Ensure the ceiling is properly insulated.

#### Removal

- Wash off any mould using a bleach such as Domestos mixed with 3 parts water or use a commercial product such as Exit Mould or Selleys Rapid Mould or similar (this may require several treatments over a number of weeks).
- Use a clean sponge or cloth to wash off the mould. Frequently rinse the cloth to reduce the possibility of spreading the mould.
- Protect your skin, eyes and clothes from splashes that may occur when applying the solution, and open the windows to provide ventilation during cleaning.
- Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and directions on application.

**Please note:** early treatment (as soon as mould appears) is easier than allowing mould to take hold and spread. It takes more effort to remove mould once it takes hold.

**Do not** dry brush the mouldy area. This will release large numbers of spores into the air which can cause an allergic reaction in some people and spread the mould further.

#### Painting

If necessary to repaint a mould affected room:

- clean the area with a mould remover
- allow to thoroughly dry before repainting
- use a low sheen, semi-gloss or gloss acrylic rather than a flat acrylic paint
- use a specially prepared mould resistant paint or a mould resistant additive mixed in with your paint.

Persistence is the key. If mould reappears after your first attempt you will need to wash down the mould again. It only takes a few spores to regrow, multiply and bring the problem back. It may be necessary to treat mould on a seasonal basis with the onset of cold, moist conditions brought on by winter.