

PREPARE FOR WINTER: KEEP YOUR HOUSE DRY

Reduce excess moisture

- Don't dry your clothes inside **when possible**.
- Put lids on pots and pans when cooking to stop the steam escaping.
- **Use extraction fans** in the kitchen and bathroom.
- Wipe condensation off your windows **every day**.

Open your windows and doors

- Open some windows and doors, **even for 10 minutes in winter**, to maintain a good air flow.
- Open windows after a shower and when cooking allow warm, moist air to escape outside.
- Leave a window open at night if it is safe and suitable.

Reduce humidity and moisture levels.

- Extract the moisture **to the outside**, and not into the ceiling, using extractor fans and rangehoods.
- Use a shower cover or curtain to retain humidity in the shower cubicle.
- **Heat your house to at least 18°C** to experience fewer periods of high humidity.
- Install a groundsheet (polyethylene barrier or vapour barrier) under your house to effectively reduce indoor humidity. This is very cost effective and, most of the time, you can do it yourself.
- If your house is on piles, **ensure good ventilation** of the area under your floor.

Burn dry wood

- Check your firewood moisture content. A wood moisture meter can help see how wet your wood is. **Well-seasoned (dry) wood burns cleaner, and can keep us warmer**, something that we need in a region that gets very still and frosty in winter, and where woodsmoke hangs around and can affect our air quality. For more information on firewood visit:

www.mstn.govt.nz/mastertons-air-quality

www.gw.govt.nz/how-to-keep-your-wood-dry

www.warmercheaper.co.nz/good-wood/what-is-good-wood

Useful links for grants and more information

Grant for insulation and/or heating systems: <https://tools.eeca.govt.nz/warmer-kiwi-homes-tool/>

Homefit Online check: <https://tools.genless.govt.nz/individuals/homefit-online-check/>