

# Damp & Mould

## Information & Support Available in Hertfordshire

This flyer has been produced to give front line professionals advice about the health risks of damp and mould in housing and contact details for council Environmental Health teams who can help with concerns.

### The health risks of damp and mould in the home:

Respiratory	Other physical health	Mental health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General symptoms: cough, wheeze, and shortness of breath</li><li>• Increased risk of airway infections</li><li>• Development or worsening of allergic airway diseases, asthma and other conditions that involve inflammation of the airways</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irritation of the eye</li><li>• Eczema, and other patches of itchy skin or skin rashes</li><li>• Other fungal infections</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Poor mental health</li></ul>

### Factors influencing damp and mould in the home:

- Inadequate insulation
- Poor ventilation
- Inefficient, ineffective and or unaffordable heating systems
- Overcrowding
- Disrepair
- High rent – cost of living
- Lack of knowledge and or awareness
- Lack of appropriate facilities for clothes drying.

### Environmental Health

Environmental Health teams or in some cases, broader Housing departments, have the expertise, competencies, practical experience, and community involvement required to deliver strong health safeguards and effectively promote wellbeing.

Housing safety is one area of regulation carried out.

### Housing Conditions

Environmental Health or in some cases, broader Housing departments, will provide advice to all residents and depending on the severity of the damp and mould they can legally require improvements to homes where they are rented. When deciding what action to take, they will consider the chance of harm, how serious it would be, and any extra risk to vulnerable individuals. They work with landlords initially to get improvements informally; however, will act if serious problems are found by:

- Issuing a legal improvement notice requiring works in a certain time period.
- Declaring a legal order prohibiting the use of part or all of a property.
- In some cases, the council will complete the works themselves and charge the landlord.

As well as damp and mould, they will advise and regulate safety standards in all rented homes; this includes risks of falls, fire, cold and electrics.



## Hertfordshire Support Available

Local Authority	Email Address	Contact Number
Broxbourne Borough Council	<a href="mailto:envhealth@broxbourne.gov.uk">envhealth@broxbourne.gov.uk</a>	01992 785555 ext 2512
Dacorum Borough Council	<a href="mailto:pshousing@dacorum.gov.uk">pshousing@dacorum.gov.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:ECP@dacorum.gov.uk">ECP@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	01442 228574  01442 228000
East Hertfordshire District Council	<a href="mailto:environmental.health@eastherts.gov.uk">environmental.health@eastherts.gov.uk</a>	01992 531502
Hertsmere Borough Council	<a href="mailto:private.sector@hertsmere.gov.uk">private.sector@hertsmere.gov.uk</a>	0208 207 2277
North Hertfordshire District Council	<a href="mailto:Env.Health@north-herts.gov.uk">Env.Health@north-herts.gov.uk</a>	01462 474000
St Albans City and District Council	Non-council rental properties: <a href="mailto:privatesectorhousing@stalbans.gov.uk">privatesectorhousing@stalbans.gov.uk</a>  Council tenants: <a href="mailto:stalbansrepairs@morgansindall.com">stalbansrepairs@morgansindall.com</a>	01727 866100
Stevenage Borough Council	<a href="mailto:env.health@stevenage.gov.uk">env.health@stevenage.gov.uk</a>	01438 242908
Three Rivers District Council	<a href="mailto:environmentalhealth@threerivers.gov.uk">environmentalhealth@threerivers.gov.uk</a>	01923 77611
Watford Borough Council	<a href="mailto:HousingandWellbeing@watford.gov.uk">HousingandWellbeing@watford.gov.uk</a>	01923 226400
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	<a href="mailto:housingandcommunity@welhat.gov.uk">housingandcommunity@welhat.gov.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:e.health@welhat.gov.uk">e.health@welhat.gov.uk</a>	01707 357 672  01707 357 242



### National Energy Foundation – Better Housing Better Health

Provides residents with a single point of contact to get impartial expert advice to help improve the energy efficiency of their home, save money, and improve comfort.

- Request an online assessment: [Request an Assessment](#)
- Or call 0800 107 0044 (Monday to Friday 9.00-17.00, excluding bank holidays).

### Citizens Advice

Offers a range of advice services, including housing quality and conditions.

- Contact your local office: [Hertfordshire Advice Services](#)
- Or call 0800 144 8848 (Monday to Friday 9.00-17.00).

### HertsHelp – [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

Trained advisors offering free, confidential advice on local services and support.

- Call 0300 123 4044 or email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)