

# Fact Sheet

## HOW TO STOP MOULD

### THE PROBLEM

Every building, no matter how it is built, contains a small amount of mould spores which are usually completely harmless. However, given the right conditions, these spores can grow causing black unhealthy mould.

Mould can grow quickly and easily on walls and ceilings.

### WHERE DO YOU FIND MOULD?

It can be found on and next to windows particularly on the sills, in the corners and edges of rooms, on walls and ceilings. Mould can also be found behind and inside wardrobes and cupboards especially if they are against an external wall.

Mould can even grow on clothes, handbags and shoes if they are stored in wardrobes when still damp or wet.



### WHAT NOT TO USE TO REMOVE MOULD

Chemicals like bleach and ammonia do not remove mould. They simply bleach the colour out of mould, making you think you've gotten rid of the mould when, in fact, it is still there, you just can't see it.

### THREE WAYS TO TREAT MOULD

#### Vinegar

Vinegar has antifungal and antibacterial properties making it a cheap and effective treatment for many types of mould. In fact, vinegar kills about 82% of known moulds and helps to prevent future breakouts. Vinegar is an environmentally-friendly solution that will not harm you, your kids or your pets.

#### Baking Soda

Baking soda is also an effective treatment for mould. It is a natural disinfectant that kills off unpleasant odours. Baking soda can be added to vinegar to tackle different types of mould as it kills different strains. Like vinegar, baking soda is environmentally-friendly and will not harm you, your kids or your pets.

#### Tea Tree Oil

Tea tree oil is a natural fungicide that kills mould spores throughout your home. It is

environmentally-friendly, harmless to you, your kids and your pets. Of all the natural mould killing solutions, tea tree oil is the most effective. A small amount can be very effective in removing mould.

### HOW TO STOP MOULD GROWING

- Make sure you have good airflow and ventilation.
- Good airflow helps reduce condensation that could cause mould to grow.
- Keep furniture away from walls.

- Open wardrobe doors occasionally to let the air flow through.
- Quickly fix any water leaks.

#### Tea Tree Oil Spray

- Step 1 Add 2 teaspoons of tea tree oil to a spray bottle filled with water.
- Step 2 Spray on problem areas and do not rinse.
- Step 3 Wipe areas with dry microfibre cloth when finished.

#### Vinegar Solution

- Step 1 Pour a concentration of 80% vinegar to 20% water into three buckets.
- Step 2 Grab a microfibre cloth, dip it into the first bucket and clean a patch of mould.
- Step 3 Rinse the cloth in the second bucket, and rinse again in the third.
- Step 4 Repeat until all mould is cleaned off.
- Step 5 Wipe areas with dry microfibre cloth when finished.

If you have tried these solutions and the mould still comes back, please contact Homes North.

#### NEED TO CONTACT HOMES NORTH?

Armidale  
(02) 6772 5133

Glen Innes  
(02) 6732 3652

Gunnedah  
(02) 6742 0363

Inverell  
(02) 6722 5137

Moree  
(02) 6752 4440

Tamworth  
(02) 6766 6897

Coledale  
(02) 6765 8879

[www.homesnorth.org](http://www.homesnorth.org)