

Concerned about safety?



MOULD

Information for Tenants

THE BASICS

Mould needs moisture to grow. Good heating and extractor fans, regular airing and gloss paint can minimise moisture and therefore mould. It is important as a tenant to use extractor fans provided, to regularly air areas and to clean mould as soon as it is noticed.

If the mould is caused by the tenant, the best way to get rid of it is a vinegar or alcohol solution (1 part vinegar/alcohol to 4 parts water). If the mould keeps coming back despite best efforts, it is likely that it is a structural problem and is a landlord/agent responsibility.

A tenant can seek [general repairs](#) that would fix the problem such as installation or repair of extractor fans, efficient heating or window locks to allow airing.

Alternatively, a tenant can contact their local council to arrange an inspection by an [Environmental Health Officer](#). A health officer can compel landlords/agents to fix problems under the Public Health Act.

Minimum Standards - Ventilation

From 1 August 2016 for all tenancies entered or renewed after 1 August 2015 and from 1 August 2018 for all other tenancies

Adequate ventilation has to be provided to each room. A room is considered adequately ventilated, when it has a window to an outside area. The window should not be smaller than 5% of the floor area of the room.

If there is no window to an outside area, the room can alternatively be connected to another room, which has a window or a door and does not contain a toilet. Both the connecting opening between the two rooms and the other door or window in the second room must each be larger than 5% of the floor area of the second room.

For the sake of combining security and adequate ventilation, windows must be lockable into a position that creates a gap between the window and the window frame. The gap should be not less than 15cm wide and should not enable a person to enter the room in which the window is situated.

Rooms including toilets, bathrooms and laundries may also be ventilated by an exhaust fan or a similar device, that takes air either from the room to the outside or an adequately ventilated roof space.

LINKS

The **Tasmanian Office of Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading** have made a fact sheet about [Residential Tenancies and Mould](#) in Tasmania. It explains what the landlord/agent and tenant can do to minimise the problem and the possible steps to remedy the situation.

The **Victorian Department of Health** website has a page on [mould](#) that focusses on health issues and actions to minimise it.