

Preventing mold by creating a comfortable climate

Create a comfortable climate in your building and reduce the risk of mold. You should consult an expert to identify structural weaknesses in the building in order to prevent damage to the building fabric and to your health.

Mold can have many causes

In addition to leaking roofs and water pipes that bring humidity into the building, certain points of a poorly insulated building exterior are particular risk factors. These can be corners of buildings, window reveals, ceiling lintels and balcony slabs. At these points, known as thermal bridges, the wall is particularly cold inside the room. Humidity can condense here, leading to mold.

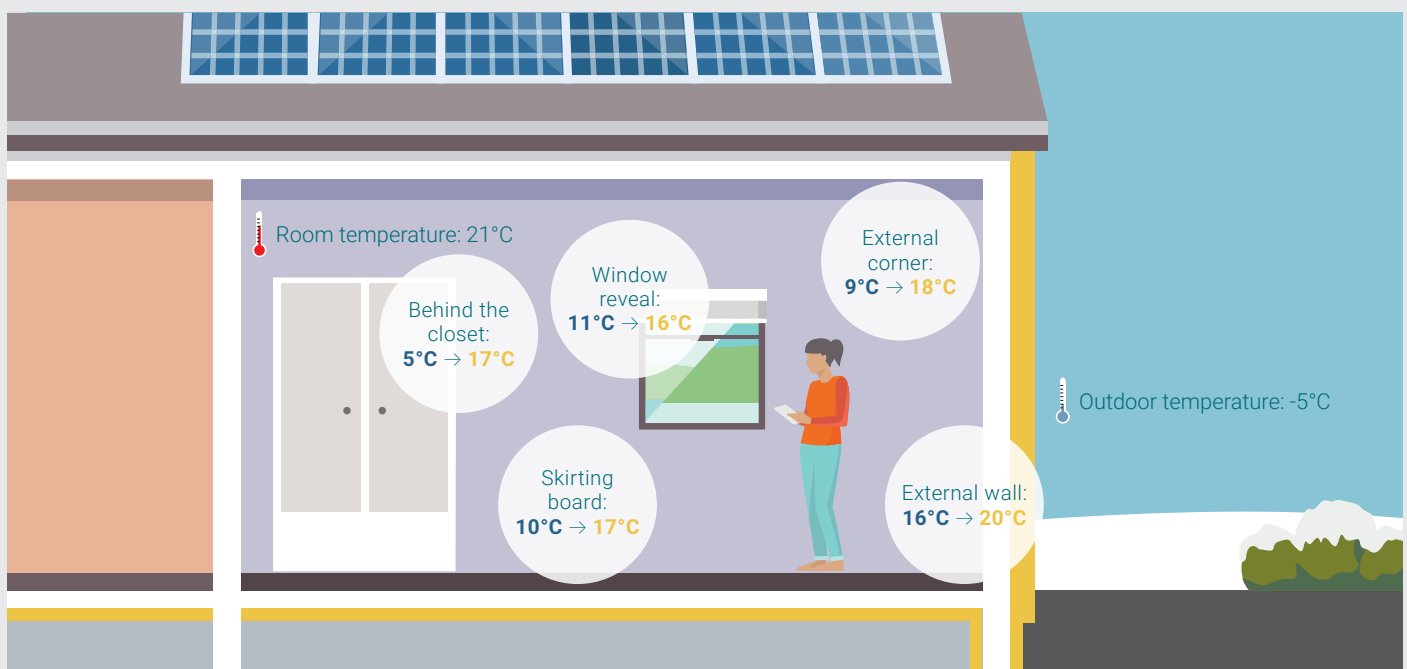
One example is a closet: If the outside wall is uninsulated, the inside wall behind the closet will have a temperature of just five degrees with a room temperature of 21 degrees. At this relatively cold point in the room, the humidity in the air condenses and mold can easily form. In an insulated building, the wall behind the cupboard will be around 17 degrees warm in a room with the same temperature as above.

It is difficult to avoid such structural risk factors through your behavior. However, by ensuring a supply of fresh air

and even heat distribution, you can remove excess humidity from your rooms and create a living climate that is comfortable for you – but not for the mold. We recommend using a thermo-hygrometer to control the climate in your rooms. A temperature of 20 degrees Celsius and a relative humidity of less than 50 percent during the heating period are ideal.

Don't give mold a chance

If the humidity rises, for example when showering or cooking, opening the windows wide for a short time helps to reduce humidity without cooling down the walls and floors. Especially when drying laundry in the home, you should regularly check for the presence of mold. Poorly ventilated areas and corners are generally susceptible. That is why you should not place furniture in front of cool exterior walls in old buildings (built before 1995).



Take protective measures: eliminate causes



Minor mold growth: remove directly

If the affected area is smaller than 0.5 m², you can remedy it yourself by moistening and removing the affected wallpaper, wiping off silicone joints with a damp cloth and replacing them if necessary. Clean smooth surfaces such as ceramic floor tiles with household detergent and disinfect them. You should use protective gloves, a face mask and goggles, as well as the right cleaning product. This should be suitable for the application and not be harmful to your health. Consult an expert for professional advice. If you have allergies, asthma, or a weak immune system, you should never try to treat mold yourself.

Major mold growth: a case for the professionals

Inform your landlord or, if you are the owner, contact a qualified service provider. Make sure they offer comprehensive advice and can prove that they have attended an independent, at least two-day training course with a professional association. The renovations should be done as follows:

Check for the presence of mold: You may need an expert to check for mold growth, as it is not necessarily visible to the naked eye.

First protection measures: Quick action will prevent any damage to your health. Uncovering the affected area, increasing ventilation or closing off the affected rooms minimizes risks and avoids the spread of mold spores.

Professional renovation: First the damp building substance must dry, then experts remove all infested materials and clean the renovated area thoroughly.

Eliminate the problem: Where does the moisture come from? If the roof, rain gutter or water pipes are leaking, they must be repaired. Weak points such as thermal bridges require structural engineering measures. External thermal insulation can increase the wall surface temperature indoors, for example. A ventilation system can also help to reduce the air humidity.

Professional investment in energy-efficient renovation prevents mold: If you are planning any thermal insulation measures, contact an expert. You can find energy consultants in your area via our website www.zukunftaltbau.de/im-eigenheim/bersuch



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