Dealing with Mold & Mildew
WWU University Residence Facilities

Mold and mildew are caused by condensation.

Condensation comes from warm, damp air inside coming into contact with cold surfaces, like windows, outside walls, ceilings and even toilets.

High moisture content in indoor air comes from 3 main things:

• Weather leaks from outside
• Plumbing leaks from inside
• Steam intensive activities like showers, cooking, hanging wet clothes.

Note: If you notice any leaks inside or outside please submit a Ready Request right away at ready.eas.wwu.edu

Tips you should be following

• Keep relative humidity below about 40 to 50 percent. If desired, acquire a humidity gauge (hygrometer) for about $25.
• Control relative humidity by using effective bathroom, and kitchen room exhaust fans above common moisture sources.
• Cook with lids and do not dry clothing on indoor clothes or rack.
• Check that exhaust fans are actually moving air; the suction should hold up a tissue. If fans are not working please submit a Ready Request.
• Make sure the indoor air gets exchanged daily; Flush your living spaces with cold outside air by opening doors and windows for 5 minutes or so; if windy about 60 seconds will do.
• Use a dehumidifier if necessary.

What to do if you find mold or mildew

First step is to not panic, it is most likely mildew rather than mold. Next is to submit a Ready Request and staff will respond to your request accordantly.