

# Preventing Mold & Mildew

WWU University Residences 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 sources:

- Moisture penetration from the outside
- Plumbing leaks from the 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.wvu.edu/ready](https://ready.wvu.edu/ready)



## 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 an indoor clothing rack.
- Confirm 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 accordingly.