

Almost 1,500 complaints of mould and damp made to Dublin City Council over two years

A report issued by the Community Action Network showed that council tenants are having major issues with mould and damp

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Unhealthy levels of damp, mould and condensation in local authority housing across Dublin should not be blamed on tenants, a new report has claimed.

The report, issued by the Community Action Network (CAN), shows that living conditions within and around many local authority housing units "do not meet normal acceptable levels".

It also shows that in many cases the occurrence of condensation, damp and mould is outside the control of the tenants.

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An examination of conditions in Tyrone Place, Inchicore showed that 64% of tenants struggled to keep their home warm, 62% had issues with damp and condensation and over half had mould in their homes.

In those homes with mould, 75% of tenants had serious respiratory problems.

Similar results came from a complex in Bluebell, where over 90% of tenants said they had issues with damp and 75% said they had continuous health problems including colds, chest infections and asthma.

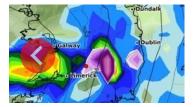
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According to the report, almost 1,500 complaints of damp and mould were made by tenants of **Dublin City Council** between 2014 and 2015.

The council said that 97% of those complaints were a result of tenant activity.

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"The evidence that building defects are causing dangerous damp, mould and condensation shows that the real source of a problem that has been blamed for years on tenant activity actually lies within the walls of the sick buildings that people are paying rent for," said Cecilia Forrestal of CAN.

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"Local authorities consistently state in tenant communication and agreements that condensation, mould and damp are issues related to tenant activity such as drying clothes," she continued.
"We know now that this is not true and we are asking local authorities to address the real structural issues at the heart of a problem that is causing people to be very sick."
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