

# Care After Curtain Cleaning

## Minimise the food sources that encourage mould growth

- Clean soft furnishings regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions. This usually involves a regular light vacuum, with less frequent dry cleaning or laundering.
- Regularly clean windows and wipe down window surrounds and venetian blinds or shutters with a mild detergent in warm water.
- Consider selecting window coverings manufactured from man-made materials, particularly in damp areas such as the bathroom, kitchen and on south facing windows.

## Minimise moisture in your home

- Use lids on pots and pans when cooking.
- Never hang clothes to dry inside and vent your clothes drier to the outside.
- Keep your roof, cladding and guttering in good repair.
- Check that stormwater is being discharged to an appropriate outlet.
- Check plumbing for leaks.
- Replace any unflued gas heaters with flued gas or electric heaters.
- Avoid bringing wet clothes or shoes into your home.

## Ventilate your home to reduce moisture build-up in the air

- Open north facing doors and windows when you are home during the day, even during the colder months.
- Use exhaust fans in areas where water vapour is created (eg: the kitchen and bathroom).
- If all else fails, consider a heat recovery ventilation system to replace stale damp air with fresh air.

## Maintain an even inside temperature throughout your home to prevent moist air from condensing onto cold areas like windows

- Insulate ceilings, floors and, where possible, walls.
- Improve the insulative properties of your windows by closing your curtains/blinds as soon as the sun goes down each day.
- Replace any thin or unlined window coverings with quality thermal or lined curtains or roman blinds.
- Fit your curtains or blinds as close to the wall as possible to trap air against the window and take your curtains all the way to the floor to prevent air circulating out from under the curtain
- If you are planning any home renovations, consider upgrading joinery to double glazing or installing a retrofitted secondary glazing.