

DO YOU SEE BLACK OR PINK SLIMY BITS COMING FROM TAPS? DO THESE CAUSE STAINS ON TILES?

Often you may find in the bathroom or coming from the end of the tap, pink/black slimy bits. Occasionally this will grow on the tile grout or bathroom sealant and on the shower head. It can also be found in the toilet cistern and up under the rim of the loo. Basically, anywhere damp that is warm or has limescale deposits offers a great surface for mould/biofilm to stick and grow on. Moulds are caused by airborne mould spores and not from the water supply. The mould is not harmful to health but is unsightly.

Then here's how to diagnose the source of the problem.

Check a few things out and it will help sort out the problem:

1. Have you noticed slimy bits coming out of the tap?

Often black bits can be seen coming off the insert of the tap or around plug holes and overflows, this is an area where mould will also grow. It will grow on sponges and flannels. Cleaning tap inserts with mild bleach solution or sodium bicarbonate solution, removing them to clean or using a soft brush or cotton bud, should help to clear the bits away. You can also soak showerheads in the solution. Always rinse the area well to remove the bleach.

2. Do you have good airflow in the room

As an airborne spore, mould can land on any surface. They thrive and grow in damp warm areas, typically the bathroom. Having adequate extraction and opening windows for ventilation, will help to reduce growth. Soaps, aerosols, air fresheners and some scented detergents are food sources for mould. Cleaning surfaces with a dilute bleach solution will help to reduce the problem but it does frequently reoccur and may take some time to resolve completely.

3. Has the mould appeared in your washing machine?

You may regularly see black mould form in the soap dispenser of your washing machine or grow on the rubber seal around the door. This can lead to bad odours on newly washed garments. Follow manufacturers instructions on how to clean your washing machine and do this regular. Leaving the door open after a wash to allow any moist air to escape and the rubber to dry out will help.

TOP TIP - Leaving even a small amount of mould after cleaning will produce more spores and cause the problem to reoccur, so clean often to eliminate it and clean away any limescale if you have harder water.

4. Are your neighbours experiencing the same issue?

If you have completed all your checks and fixes above and your neighbours have the same issue, please visit www.nwl.co.uk or call **0345 717 1100** so that we can help.