Help Prevent Mold & Moisture

Wingate's Southern climate means we deal with significant heat and humidity, especially during the summer and early fall. Afternoon rain and storms can also increase the moisture around us. Keeping your living space at the proper temperature and limiting moisture are important steps in preventing mold and musty odors.

Mold and other microbial growth can begin within 24–48 hours when moisture is present, particularly in warm, dark areas with limited airflow.

Practices for Everyone

Please make the following part of your regular routine:

- **Do not block vents or PTAC units.** Leave at least 12 inches of open space in front of vents and units for proper airflow.
- **Do not open windows or prop exterior doors open.** This allows additional warm, humid air into the building.
- **Dry wet items promptly.** Put wet clothing in the dryer and make sure towels are completely dry before leaving them in your room or bathroom.
- **Spread towels out when drying.** Do not leave them bunched up.
- **Dry wet shoes completely**, especially after rain or heavy dew.
- **Avoid overpacking closets and storage areas**, including the space under your bed. Good airflow helps prevent moisture buildup.
- **Clean up spills immediately.**
- **Be mindful of where you use diffusers.** In rooms with PTAC units, place diffusers on the opposite side of the room from the unit. In apartments with central HVAC, keep diffusers away from vents. Diffuser oils can leave a sticky residue that attracts dust and can contribute to buildup and microbial growth inside HVAC units.
- **Keep your space clean.** Vacuum regularly and wipe down desks, countertops, sinks, and bathroom areas. For students who have their own bathroom, make sure you're cleaning the toilet and shower on a regular basis.
- **Report water leaks or wet areas immediately** by submitting a Campus Operations work request.

Residence Halls & Apartments with PTAC Units

This includes Alumni, the Cannons, CM Black, Helms, JM Smith, Beam, Byrum, Welborn, and C&L Tucker.

- **Do not set your unit below 68°F.** Lower temperatures can cause moisture buildup, cause the unit to freeze, or cause it to shut down.
- **Keep your dehumidifier running** and empty the water tank daily. A red light indicates that the tank is full.

- If your PTAC has a **“DRY” mode, use it** when appropriate.
- **Maintain a consistent temperature.** Setting the temperature extremely low or high will not make the unit cool or heat faster and can cause the unit to stop working.
- Remember that your temperature setting can affect the rooms and apartments around you, including spaces above, below, and beside you.

Apartments with Central HVAC

This includes South Village, Cooper, East Wilson, Bennett, Holbert, Laney, Lowery, Hendricks, and McIntyre.

- **Do not set your unit below 68°F.** Lower temperatures can cause excess moisture and may cause the system to freeze or shut down.
- These systems have a built-in dehumidification component, so a separate dehumidifier is generally not necessary.
- **Keep interior doors open when possible** to allow air to circulate throughout the apartment.
- Avoid closing off rooms or sections of the apartment for extended periods when possible.

Following these simple practices will help create a more comfortable living environment, protect your space and belongings, and reduce the potential for mold and moisture-related issues.

If you notice a **water leak, wet area, or other maintenance concern, please submit a Campus Operations work request as soon as possible.**

Need help? Submit a Campus Operations work request:
Campus Operations Work Request