



**Basements and crawl spaces are damper and colder than the other rooms in a building. The type of foundation may also be a major source of moisture.**

#### **Risk factors**

- ❶ The presence of a washtub, washer and dryer
- ❷ Dryer exhaust not venting outdoors
- ❸ Storage of firewood
- ❹ Disorderly storage of articles
- ❺ A water heater

#### **Keep an eye out for any:**

- Any rugs or carpeting, which absorb moisture
- Floors or walls that are wet or that retain moisture
- White, powdery stains on the concrete of walls or floors
- Condensation on the windows
- Blackened window sills
- Mould growth on stored articles
- A musty smell

#### **Prevention tips**

- Use a dehumidifier, making sure that its water pan is emptied and its filter changed on a regular basis
- Do not install carpeting
- Make sure the clothes dryer vents outdoors
- Store firewood outside your home
- Keep the basement adequately heated
- Do not store materials on the ground or close to the walls

#### **Ask the landlord to take action**

- If there are any plumbing leaks or condensation on the pipes
- If there is mould on the structures of the walls and in the insulation
- If there is no water-tight cover on the sump or floor drains
- If the lot slopes toward the building foundation

#### **GOOD TO KNOW**

**In the spring, the bottom of the foundation walls is often colder than the outdoor air temperature. Opening the windows too soon in the season can lead to condensation on cold walls.**