

WHAT IS CONDENSATION?

Condensation is water that forms on a cold surface when exposed to warm moist air. Depending on the atmospheric conditions, this water may appear as fog, droplets, or frost. Excessive amounts of condensation may drip, drain, or run into surrounding surfaces adversely affecting their appearance and integrity. This may cause wood surfaces to peel, swell, or rot while metallic surfaces may rust or corrode.

Condensation forms on a window as warm, moist air touches the cold glass and frame components. Since cold air holds less moisture than warm air, water forms on the window surface. Because windows are a visible sign of the phenomenon they are blamed for condensation problems. On the contrary, choosing the right window system can help control condensation.



WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

THERE ARE SEVERAL INEXPENSIVE ACTIONS THAT CAN GREATLY REDUCE THE HOME HUMIDITY LEVEL.

- PROPERLY VENT CLOTHES DRYERS, GAS BURNERS, ETC...
- IF USING A HUMIDIFIER, BE SURE IT IS SET ACCORDING TO THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE.
- OCCASIONALLY OPEN THE WINDOWS IN THE BATHROOM, KITCHEN, AND LAUNDRY ROOMS.
- USE KITCHEN AND BATHROOM EXHAUST FANS.
- CHECK THAT ALL EXHAUST VENTS ARE CLEAR AND FREE OF OBSTRUCTIONS.
- MAKE SURE THAT ATTIC VENTS AND LOUVERS ARE OPEN AND FREE OF OBSTRUCTIONS.

CONDENSATION



MOISTURE PROBLEMS

If the air in your house is too moist, your house structure and your personal possessions may be damaged. Air can hold only so much water.

When warm, moist air comes into contact with a surface that is too cold, it releases “condensation.” The water and frost that you see collecting on the windows is a visible example.

Condensation may also be soaking into your roof sheathing, exterior walls and insulation, where hidden leaks are releasing humid house air to the outside.

Over the long term, the result may be damage to the house structure.

AIR QUALITY PROBLEMS

Stale air is a health hazard. For the health of everyone in your home, your house (like you) should “breathe” properly. If it doesn’t, the air in your home can become polluted with harmful chemicals released from synthetic fabrics, furnishings, household products, cigarette smoke, and improperly maintained or vented combustion devices such as cooking stoves, furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves, and fire places.

***MOISTURE IS CONTINUALLY
BEING RELEASED INSIDE A
HOUSE: 10-50 LITERS OR 2-10
GALLONS PER DAY! ****

FIND THE MOISTURE LEVEL IN YOUR HOUSE:

The amount of moisture in the air is normally measured as it’s Relative Humidity (RH)

Purchase a Relative Humidity sensor (hygrometer) at your local hardware store or building center.

Inside your house, the Relative Humidity should be brought down to approximately 45% during the winter heating season.

In very cold weather, a level of 30% **may** be needed to prevent window condensation.

Upgraded windows can support a higher level of Relative Humidity without condensation occurring.

If you reduce the amount of moisture released into your house each day, you can reduce ventilation and save energy!

Note: A wet or damp basement especially if heated, may generate much more moisture than all other family activities combined.

*In a heating season lasting 200 days, that adds up to 2,000 to 10,000 liters (400 to 2,000 gallons) of moisture!

MOULD AND MILDEW

PROBLEMS

Mold and mildew fungi can cause:

*Unsightly Stains

*Damaged paint, wood, drywall, and fabrics.

*Allergies and Illness.

SYMPTOMS

*Musty Smells

*Green or black marks on the inside surface of outer walls or ceilings.

*Mildew on drapes and backs of furniture.

*Stains in wet areas of carpets.

PREVENTION

To avoid mould and mildew problems, keep materials dry.

