



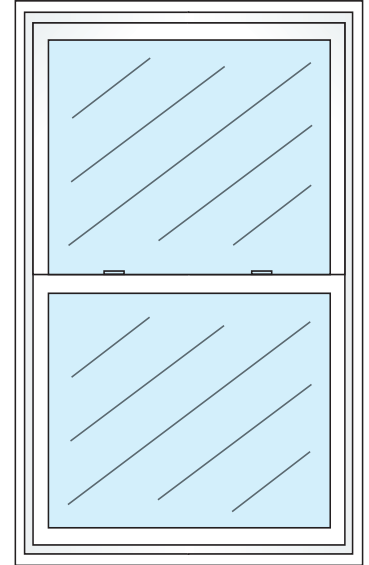
Condensation Q & A

Q: Does condensation occur more often in particular climates or types of homes?

A: DEFINITELY. Condensation is more prone to occur in climates where the average January temperature is 35 Degrees Fahrenheit or colder. Therefore, there will be greater extremes between indoor and outdoor temperatures affecting the glass surfaces in your home.

All areas of your home will pick up humidity during the summer and fall months. When the windows are closed and the heat is turned on, the moisture will pass in the air of the house. Condensation will most likely be noticed for the next few weeks.

Today's energy-efficient homes are built more airtight than ever and tend to hold in more moisture-laden air. If your home contains excessive moisture and it's cold outside the first place you'll see it is on your windows. You may think this means that you have a problem with your windows, but it doesn't. In fact, window condensation problems are not the result of faulty windows. The window condensation is an indication to lower the amount of moisture in the air.



Q: Can condensation damage your windows?

A: Occasional beads of moisture on the glass of your windows are usually not a problem. For example, after a hot shower it is likely that your bathroom mirror and the windows will steam up, or your kitchen windows may fog up when you're boiling food on the stove. However, if your windows are sweating at other times - or they stay that way for any length of time - you probably are going to have a problem.

Although the glass itself may not be affected, dripping condensation and excess moisture can not only damage your windows but potentially your entire home.

- * Wood frames and sash can warp and become difficult to operate.
- * Paint/wallpaper can peel.
- * Insulation can become damp, damaging ceilings and walls.
- * Exterior siding and finishes can become blistered and warped.
- * Interior siding and finishes can become a breeding ground for mold and mildew.

That's why it's important to take steps to control and eliminate excess moisture.

Q: What heightens the indoor humidity problem?

A: Lifestyle changes are elevating water-vapor levels in today's homes. Studies show that a family of four can easily release more than 18 gallons (150 lbs.) of moisture per week into household air. Cooking for a family of four adds 4.5 lbs. of moisture a day to a household. Other contributors are: each shower 1/2lb., weekly laundry, 30 lbs., and human occupancy.

Q: What factors influence condensation?

A: "Dew-point" is the temperature that the air will no longer hold its entire moisture vapor. Cold air holds less moisture vapor than warm air.

In high-performance windows with Low-E and Argon gas, the outside glass surface will actually be colder than a similar, "regular" window without these features. This is because the high-performance window is doing its job. Reducing heat-flow to the outside and preventing the warming of the exterior surface above dew point.

There is, however, a potential downside to increased U-values-exterior condensation on windows and door

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