HELPFUL GUIDE

Condensation



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We've created a helpful little guide to break all the myths and mysteries surrounding condensation. We hope you find it useful.

Myths, truths and what to do...

The first thing we all do when we see condensation in our lovely new installation is worry, thinking something is wrong or faulty.

But it's very rare that's the case, in fact condensation is most often a sign that your products are working exactly as they should, rather than an indication of a fault.

Why does condensation occur?

In your home, natural water vapour is increased by activities that create steam such as cooking, bathing, washing, boiling a kettle and of course breathing! This vapour is undetectable whilst floating in warm air but any contact with cold surfaces like windows, mirrors and tiles, condensation occurs and this vapour turns to water droplets. This is normal and means that your windows are functioning properly.

In the good old days of open flues for coal fires, air bricks and ill-fitting windows and doors, traditional house construction allowed this water to escape through natural ventilation. Nowadays, with modern advancement, the drive to conserve energy and reduce heating costs, homes are well sealed which results in trapped water vapour and the potential for condensation. Therefore, condensation can only ever be minimised and never eradicated.

Myths, truths and what to do...

When should I worry about condensation?

Basically, the rule is that if the condensation is occurring between the sealed unit, then it's failed and you need to call us to replace it. If the condensation is occurring on the outer pane of the windows, then that's them doing their job properly, keeping the heat in so if you want to minimise the condensation then just follow our handy hints.

Handy hint 1 - Increase natural ventilation

You'll be pleased to know that if you have condensation forming, all you need to do is improve the circulation of air to reduce it. Here are some tips to do just that.

- Leave your windows in the night ventilation position as often as possible
- Open the roof vent (if fitted)
- Remove any close fitting curtains

Handy hint 2 - Heating

Try to maintain some permanent heat during cold weather as this helps reduce condensation. Where condensation is a particular problem, marginally increase the temperature in that area.

In the case of conservatories, if possible, place a heater under windows to maintain the temperature of the inside pane of your double-glazing and you should see your condensation fade away nicely.

Handy hint 3 - Condensation in newly fitted conservatories

Newly constructed conservatories need an initial 'drying out' period as hundreds of litres of water are used during its construction when building dwarf walls, concrete bases and plasterwork, so it can take up to 12 weeks for natural condensation to dissipate. In winter, it'll probably take a little longer than this.

Make your house a home with Cumberland Windows, your regional home improvement specialist.

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