



## CONDENSATION GUIDE

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There have been many questions regarding the causes and cures for interior condensation. This guide was put together to help answer those questions and dispel some of the myths and misinformation regarding window condensation.

### **Why am I getting condensation on my windows?**

In order to understand why you are getting condensation on your glass, it is important to understand how condensation forms. Condensation is a very natural and common event, primarily occurring during spring and fall when a warm day follows a cool night, however it can occur any time of year. When warm, moist air comes into contact with cooler surfaces, the excess moisture in the air will condense because the now cooler air cannot hold as much moisture. The point at which the moisture condenses is known as the dew point.

Unfortunately, the reason that the window surface temperature is below the dew point temperature can potentially become somewhat more complex. In the summer, when you pull something cold and refreshing out of the refrigerator, and the air is warm and humid, that cold and refreshing beverage container suddenly and quite magically becomes instantly wet – just as soon as it is exposed to the air. Obviously the container did not spontaneously spring a leak. What has happened is that the temperature of the container fresh from the refrigerator is below the dew point temperature of the air – which has caused condensation on the outside of that container.

What happens to your windows in the fall and winter is that the surface of the glass is below the dew point temperature of the air in your home – which is causing condensation on the surface of that glass.

### **I now know why I have condensation, how do I get rid of it?**

In order to stop condensation from forming on the surface of a window, you either have to lower the dew point temperature of the air in your home to a level below the dew point temperature of the window surface, or you have to warm up the window surface to a temperature above the dew point temperature of your home, or a combination of both.

Unfortunately there is no magic bullet for this. The easiest way to achieve a decrease in condensation is to remove the moist air from the home, or at a minimum, to increase air



circulation, which will keep the air from collecting on cooler surfaces and condensing. So, you can either increase air circulation by running ceiling fans, or remove moisture by installing dehumidifiers or exhaust fans.

### [My previous windows didn't have any condensation, why are my new windows showing it?](#)

While it may be natural to blame the new windows because condensation wasn't showing before, one must take into account the reason the old windows were replaced. Generally, they leaked, were broken, were drafty, etc. The new windows will trap the air more effectively and not allow it to escape. The product was designed to prevent air leakage, both warm air escaping your home in the winter and cool air in the summer.

### [My neighbors' homes do not have any condensation on their windows, but mine do. Is there something wrong with my windows?](#)

Condensation is not indicative of a product malfunction. Unfortunately there is no way we could tell you why your house has condensation where someone else's does not, other than to explain why condensation would occur. There are too many variables for us to pinpoint a reason as to why it might occur. The age of the house, the type of windows installed, the type and amount of insulation used in construction, the number of people in the home and their living habits, the heating/cooling system in place, which way their house faces when the sun rises, among many other things all contribute to the amount of moisture in an individual home.