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Condensation Guide

When the damp air inside your home meets a cold surface such as glass and/or window frames, it releases moisture which appears in the form of water droplets, also known as condensation.

While there will always be moisture in the air in our homes, there is still a lot we can do to reduce the impacts of condensation.

DID YOU KNOW?

On average, we spend around 90% of our day indoors so the quality of the air in our homes, work and schools impact our health, comfort and the efficiency of heating systems.

Double glazing reduces the likelihood of condensation on your aluminium joinery or glass by keeping the inside pane of glass warmer than it would be as single glazing. It is, however, important to note that even if you do not have condensation on your windows, you could still have moisture in your home, it may have just found a colder surface to form condensation on.

THIS MOISTURE IS CAUSED BY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

Keys to reducing moisture, therefore the likelihood of condensation:

1. Ventilation

Thorough ventilation is the best way to keep indoor air quality high and flush out moisture.
It will help to keep your home drier, healthier and more comfortable.

TIP: *Keeping windows open, even a small amount for some of the daytime, can help reduce condensation.*

TIP: *When cooking, drying laundry, or showering, make sure you let the water vapour escape outside. You can do this by opening windows or vents, turning on a ventilation fan, or by using a ducted clothes dryer.*

2. Dehumidifiers

Dehumidifiers are useful as their sole purpose is to reduce moisture in the air. A dehumidifier draws in the moisture-laden air from around the room, extracts the water and deposits it into an inbuilt container for later disposal.

3. Window systems

High performing ThermalHEART or Klima Series window systems from Altherm, First & Vantage with passive ventilation, combined with AGP's Solux-E coated glass can be key parts of the solution to limiting condensation on internal surfaces of your home.

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Construction Moisture

DID YOU KNOW?

The materials used to build an average 3-bedroom sized house, can absorb up to 7,000L of water during construction.

New homes are built fast, often encapsulating the inherent moisture in the construction materials along with any weather during construction. The amount of moisture released in the first 18 months of occupation is significant. In most cases, this will go away as the building materials dry out. Regular ventilation and heating are required to clear this moisture from the home.

Dew (external condensation)

External condensation on your windows is called dew, just like dew on cars, roofs, walls or the grass. This occurs when the surface is colder than the dew point of the surrounding air; typically, on still nights with little or no wind, cold temperatures and/or high relative humidity.

Exposure to the night sky matters. Windows protected under eaves are normally not affected whilst adjacent windows and doors without eaves can be. The surrounding environment is a key factor, local geography, recent rain or adjacent bodies of water will all influence a sites temperature & humidity. As the environmental conditions change, the dew will dry out.

Higher performing Solux-E double glazing will deliver a lower external surface temperature compared to standard double glazing, hence a higher possibility of dew formation.
This is not a defect, rather a by-product of the low emissivity coating (Low-E) and argon gas retaining the heat inside the home.

It is healthier to have the condensation outside!

Further information is available from the WGANZ website (WGANZ.org.nz/guides/condensation).

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