



## *Condensation Questions & Answers*

### *What is Condensation?*

Condensation is the fog that suddenly appears in cold weather on the glass of windows and sliding doors. **It is natural to blame the windows...but you shouldn't. FOGGY WINDOWS AND SLIDING DOORS ARE THE INDICATORS THAT HUMIDITY COULD BE DAMAGING YOUR HOME.** This condensation is the result of excess humidity in your home.

The glass of your windows provides a cold surface on which humidity can visibly condense. Condensation usually occurs first on windows because glass surfaces have the lowest temperature of any of the interior surfaces in the house. When the warm moist air comes into contact with the cooler glass surfaces, the moisture condenses.

### *Where Does the Moisture Come From?*

There are many things that generate indoor moisture; humidifiers, heating systems, even plants. Cooking three meals a day adds four or five pints of water to the air. Each shower contributes ½ pint. In fact, every activity that uses water adds moisture to the air. **MORE WATER VAPOR IN THE AIR MEANS A HIGHER INDOOR HUMIDITY. HIGH INDOOR HUMIDITY MEANS CONDENSATION.** By reducing the humidity in your home during the winter, you will eliminate most...possibly all...the condensation.

### *How Can I Reduce the Humidity in my Home?*

Control the sources of moisture and increase ventilation. As a temporary solution to an acute problem, open a window in each room for just a few minutes each day. This will allow stale, humid air to escape and fresh air to enter. The heat loss will be minimal.

Vent all gas burners, clothes dryers, etc... to the outdoors. Install kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans. If there are a large number of plants in the house during winter, concentrate them in one sunny room and avoid over-watering.

Installation of storm windows will often relieve condensation on the prime house windows by keeping the interior glass warmer. Make sure attic vents are open and unobstructed. Run a dehumidifier if necessary.

### *Are There Any Cases Where Window Condensation Is Only Temporary?*

Yes, there are primarily three.

- New Construction or remodeling
- The beginning of each heating season
- Quick changes in temperature

Excessive condensation can be expected during the first year after construction. Building materials need about one year to dry out, so excessive condensation can be expected during the first heating season. After the first few weeks of heating it will dry out, and you'll have fewer condensation troubles. Sharp, quick drops in temperature can also create temporary condensation problems.

