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CONDENSATION

What is condensation?

Condensation is water droplets that form on cold surfaces when humid air is in contact with it.

How condensation is caused?

When moisture in the air comes into contact with a cool surface, it condenses into water vapour, appearing as condensation. This is known as relative humidity.

What is internal condensation?

An average family can produce about 18 pints of moisture a day, which disperses into the warm air in our houses. This can be caused by simply drying clothes on radiators, using unvented tumble dryers, boiling a kettle, running a bath, taking a shower, cooking, washing, using gas heaters and breathing! The higher the temperature in our houses the more moisture this warm air can hold, if this relative humidity rises too high, mildew will form in all areas of the home.

What is external condensation?

Condensation can form on the external surface of some double glazed units when the surface temperature of the glass drops below the outdoor dew point temperature. This is actually a sign that the windows are insulating the property well, and preventing heat from escaping through them!

How do we prevent condensation?

To prevent internal condensation, the amount of moisture within a property must be reduced – *ventilation is key*. This can be done in many ways: avoid drying clothes on radiators (if you must then confine to one room, close the door and open a window), use a tumble dryer that has a condenser (if not, ensure that it is fitted with an extraction venting kit to expel the steam outside), ensure that the bathroom door is closed and the window opened when taking a bath or shower. If condensation is forming in unheated rooms and conservatories, try to provide some form of heating to these areas in cold weather, or keep doors to these areas closed to eliminate the possibility of moisture-laden air entering. When it isn't practical to open a window or a door, a de-humidifier unit will extract the moisture from the air without making the room colder.

(taken from Eurocell, technical information)