



Understanding Window Condensation

OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE	RECOMMENDED INDOOR RELATIVE HUMIDITY (RH)
+40°F	45%
+30°F	40%
+20°F	35%
+10°F	30%
+0°F	25%
-10°F	20%
-20°F	15%

WITH AN OUTDOOR TEMP +20°F, INDOOR HUMIDITY LEVELS SHOULDN'T EXCEED 35%

Condensation on windows is a common issue, often misunderstood. It occurs when warm, moist air encounters a colder window surface, signaling excessive humidity in your home. Contrary to belief, windows aren't the culprit but rather a visible indication of the problem.

What causes condensation?

Indoor moisture stems from cooking, showering, and using hot water appliances. Newer homes, constructed with energy efficiency in mind, may trap moisture due to improved sealing materials. Weather-stripping, insulation, and modern construction methods minimize air leakage but can also retain moisture. Without adequate ventilation, this trapped moisture leads to condensation.

Can condensation be only temporary?

Temporary condensation may occur during activities like showers, cooking, or at the start of the heating season when homes release absorbed summer moisture. Sudden temperature drops, especially during heating season, can cause temporary condensation. Additionally, new construction or remodeling releases moisture from building materials, which typically resolves after the initial heating season.

What can be done to reduce condensation?

- Vent clothes dryers, gas burners, etc. to the outdoors
- Check that all ventilation equipment is adjusted properly
- Use kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans.
- Air out the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry room during and after use, by opening a window for a few minutes
- Keep attic louvers open and ensure crawl spaces are adequately ventilated.
- Consult a heating and ventilation expert to assess and improve ventilation.
- Set humidifiers or dehumidifiers correctly based on the outside temperature.

By addressing these factors, you can effectively manage indoor humidity, minimizing condensation issues on your windows.