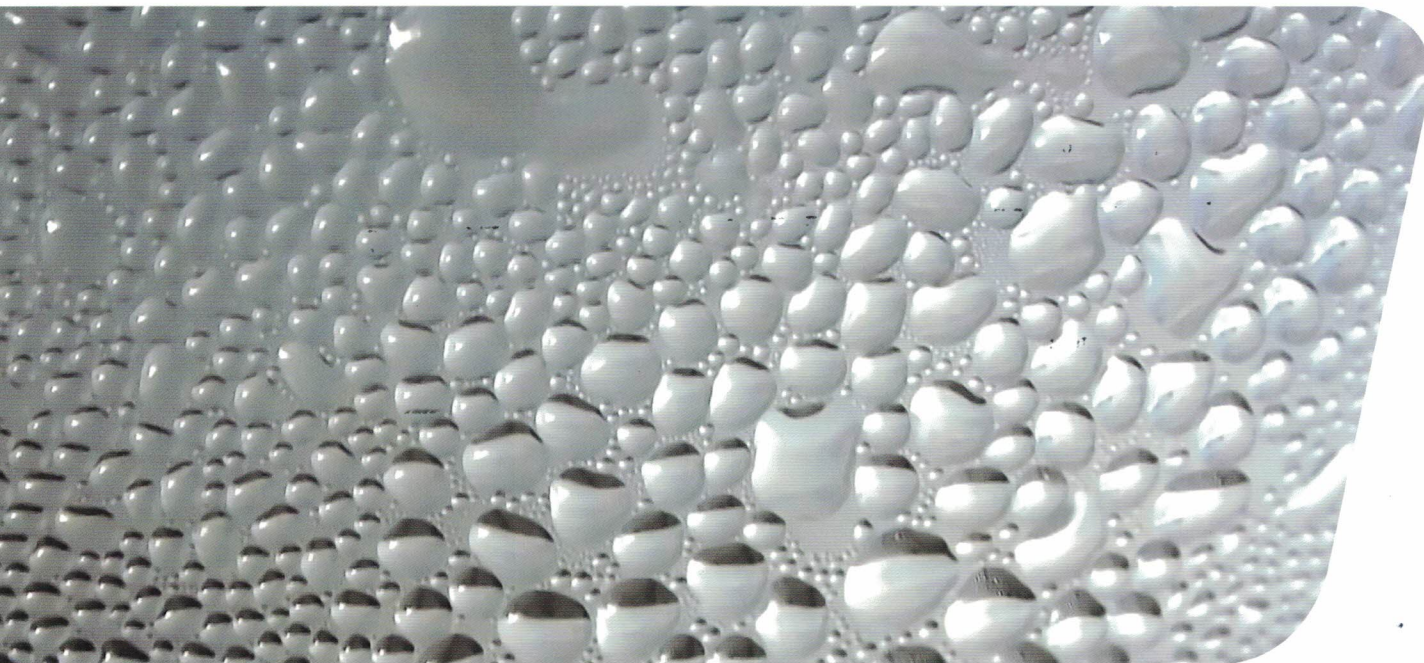


Condensation

Reducing condensation on PVC-U windows and doors



What is condensation?

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

As our homes become more thermally efficient (with fully insulated walls, lofts and A-rated windows), there is less air movement / air changes happening – which results in any moisture being produced becoming trapped within a property.

How is it caused?

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

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 even breathing.

The higher the temperature in our houses the more moisture this warm air can hold, if this RH rises too high, mildew will form in all areas of the home.

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 – which is good news for heating bills!

How do we prevent it?

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 (but if you must, try to confine this 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 door, a de-humidifier unit will extract the moisture from the air without making the room colder.