

## Condensation

Generally Condensation is recognised as being caused by a combination of moisture in our homes and the differing temperatures inside and outside of your home.

Condensation is the result of a buildup of moisture inside your home over time, generally a new home has no condensation, the materials the home has been built with are dry.

As we live in our home we increase the moisture content of these materials from day 1, we cook, we wash and have showers, these all put direct steam into the air of our home, then we breathe and perspire putting even more moisture into the home. When we add all the sources together a family of 4 will put about 30 litres into your home each day.

**This moisture needs to be controlled to stop condensation & damage to your home.**



Damage caused by Condensation

Each day our home absorbs this moisture, our lounge suite, carpet, curtains, walls and beds all absorb this moisture, and we feel it as Dampness in the winter and humidity in the summer. At any temperature below body temperature (about 30 deg C) water will feel colder than air at the same temperature.

An example: the local public swimming pool has a temperature showing of say 22 deg C, you think it will be warm, but when you jump in it feels freezing, and you think the pool attendants got the temperature wrong, they didn't, what is happening the water being colder than your skin is taking the heat out of your body making you feel colder.

This is why when you get into a damp bed it feels cold and people often use an electric blanket to heat up the bed – or should we say water. (A dry bed should not need an electric blanket)

As your home becomes more damp it feels colder, but the temperature is often the same. When we heat our home we are heating up this moisture (dampness) and drawing it into the atmosphere of our home which will be held in the air until we turn off the heater and the home cools down, then the moisture will fall out of the air back into our home – onto and into our fabrics carpets and beds, and also covers your windows with condensation day after day.

## REMOVING CONDENSATION

### **Opening Windows:**

(Which we have done for many years) helps reduce the moisture in your home, this is great if we are at home all day every day, but often, all we are actually doing is pushing out warm, stale, damp air and replacing it with cold, fresh, damp air from outside. Doing this, effectively cools down our home, (remember running around before it gets cold outside to close all the windows, or do you sleep with some windows open?). These days most families do not have someone at home to leave those windows open all day.

### **Mopping up with Towels:**

What a chore, even though we let the house “ventilate” yesterday with the windows open, Someone still has to run around each morning to mop up the condensation off the windows and window sills. How many towels do you use 1, 2 or possibly 3? Now you need to wash and dry your towels so you can use them again to do the same thing and every time you do that it is more water, washing powder and power to do it, more cost for the house. Imagine if you did not have to do this?

### **Double Glazing:** (Double Glazing is explained in greater detail here)

Double Glazing is fantastic for both heat insulation and stopping noise from outside but only stops the impression of condensation, it does not stop dampness or humidity in your home.

### **Insulation:** (Insulation is explained in greater detail here)

Again a little bit of confusion arises with insulation and condensation.

Insulation stops heat loss through your walls and also stops the coldness from outside cooling your home and causing moisture to condensate on the internal walls. Insulation like Double Glazing stops the impression of Condensation, it again does not remove moisture from your home.

[www.EasierVentilation.co.nz](http://www.EasierVentilation.co.nz)