



# INDEPENDENT NETWORK

## TECHNICAL FACT SHEET

### WHAT IS CONDENSATION

It is important to understand that condensation is a “naturally occurring phenomenon” and to a certain degree it is predictable which able us to manage the effects. Moisture condenses out of the air onto a cold surface that is said to be below the “dew point”. The dew point varies with the air temperature and the amount of moisture it contains. In spring and autumn in particular the glass temperature can fall to a low level during the night and results in the dew point being comparatively high in these seasons. The glass is more often likely to be below the dew point in these conditions and the moisture condenses onto the surface.

The position of the property, north or south facing can impact on the amount you see and experience, in addition your location in the UK can alter the results for more information there are a number of searches online to calculate your dew point.

*It is not to be seen as a defective or failed sealed unit; in fact the sealed unit is performing correctly. What is proven, as the atmospheric temperature rises during the day the condensation will NATURALLY evaporate.*

### FAQ's

#### What is condensation?

The definition in short is “a vapour or gas (air) converting to a liquid”

#### How does it happen?

It commonly occurs when warm air hits a cold surface (i.e. the window or metal parts). As an example you see this when taking a cold drink out of your fridge on a warm day.



### Can I stop it?

Modern day sealed units will **REDUCE** condensation and with specific ventilation and insulation it can be reduced further. The amount of humidity within the property can also affect the amount of condensation you experience.

### Do the seasons affect condensation?

Yes, in the warmer conditions it can be virtually non-existent, in colder periods you can notice increased amounts, as the seasons change from one to another you also see increased and decreased effects. There are many factors to consider, colder outside, less ventilation in buildings, heating turned up higher and for longer.

### What can I do with the condensation?

Where possible, it is advisable to mop up the excessive moisture this will reduce the chance of mould forming.

### Why do I see it on the outside of my new windows?

The improved performance of modern sealed units results in the heat being retained within the building more therefore the external pane is cooler. When the temperature during the night falls and in the warmer seasons warms up condensation is noticeable on the outside. In brief, it is a good sign that the sealed unit is working efficiently.

## **CONCLUSION**

Triple or double glazed units act as an insulator; its design reduces heat loss by conduction from the internal to the external of the property. The government specify that new or replacement windows perform to specific standards. Approved document L of Building Regulations states that this can be achieved by installing energy efficient products.

To reduce the amounts of condensation consider adding additional ventilation, either mechanical or background (trickle vents) this will aid the situation. Looking at the areas of the house that produce high humidity and preventing heat transfer can be beneficial; these areas (kitchen, bathroom) are a challenge but are to be expected.

In areas of excessive condensation to maintain a constant or marginal increase in temperature can be advantageous.



**Independent Network realises this natural, climatic phenomenon and we are committed to improving the understanding of condensation and aiding the homeowner manage the situation.**

**If you wish to discuss this matter we urge you to speak with your supplier in the first instance and if we at IN can help please do not hesitate to contact us directly.**

