



Internal Condensation

What is condensation?

Condensation is caused by the production of moisture in the air, which condenses into water when it comes into contact with cold surfaces – this moisture content is known as relative humidity (RH). The higher the temperature in a household the more moisture this warm air can hold – if the RH rises too high, mildew may form. In less well-insulated older properties or in unheated rooms the moisture in the warm air will condense when it comes into contact with a cool or cold surfaces such as metal windows or doors, cooler edges of glass sealed units, cold walls, floors or ceiling.

What is the main source of condensation?

Today's houses are built in a more energy efficient way by installing thermally efficient PVC-U draught-proof windows and doors, central heating and fully insulated walls, floors and roofs – hence the moisture produced stays within the dwelling because there are no air movement or changes. So, the main causes of condensation are: drying clothes on radiators, tumble dryers (non vented), boiling a kettle, bathing, cooking, and breathing.

How can you prevent/reduce the build up of condensation?

By installing PVC-U framed double glazed windows you have increased the thermal properties of the window and have therefore reduced the onset of condensation in the first place.

There are also a number of activities you can limit to reduce the amount of moisture produced in your home:

- ▶ If you dry clothes on radiators, confine this to one room and ventilate the room by opening a window
- ▶ When bathing or taking a shower, again try to contain this to one room by closing the internal door and ventilate with a circulation of fresh air
- ▶ Heating any rooms where condensation is forming is essential

Conservatory roofs are also susceptible to condensation under certain conditions. The effects of condensation within your conservatory can be minimised by heating at a normal domestic banding of between 10–25°C and 40–65% relative humidity, which may require ventilation via a roof light.