



UNDERSTANDING INTERIOR CONDENSATION ON GLASS

How Windows Can Help

Higher performing windows can improve thermal performance and increase condensation resistance. Some ways to improve window performance include using double or triple pane IGUs, Low-E coatings, low-conductance gas fills such as argon or krypton, and the use of warm edge spacers, which are placed between the glass lites. These strategies allow the humidity inside the room to be higher than a room with ordinary single pane glazing before condensation occurs.

The first step of controlling humidity begins with installing new energy-efficient windows with a high-performance rating. High efficiency windows may not solve all condensation concerns, but properly installed, sealed and insulated windows are the first step towards eliminating condensation issues.

Further reducing humidity in homes will also help by opening doors and windows on a periodic basis to exchange air in the house. Exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens and sealing the house with weather stripping and caulking will also help. Humidifiers can be sources of excessive moisture so they should not be overused.

Tips to reduce indoor humidity and interior window condensation:

There are various control measures that can be applied to minimize or eliminate condensation from occurring.

- Install an air exchange unit or a humidity control device to maintain the proper level of humidity
- Use proper vapour barriers and adequate drainage to reduce the amount of external moisture
- Ensure cold air from registers does not flow directly on to the interior surface of the glass
- Turn furnaces with humidifiers off until condensation reduces
- Ensure the exhaust from the clothes dryer is vented outside
- Ensure gutters drain water away from the house
- Avoid drying firewood in the house
- Waterproof damp basement walls and floors
- Use exhaust fans while cooking
- Open a window when doing laundry
- Close the bathroom door and open a window after baths and showers
- Ventilate the home at least once a day