

Understanding Condensation



If your home contains excessive moisture and it is cold outside, the first place you will see this moisture is on your windows. You may think condensation indicates a problem with your windows, however that is probably not the case. In fact, the vast majority of window condensation issues **are not** the result

of faulty windows. The windows are just indicating that your home needs added ventilation to lower the amount of moisture in the air.

The Feldco windows you purchased are designed to prevent air infiltration into and out of your home, and lower your heating bills. The old, drafty windows you replaced allowed the moisture in your home to escape (along with your heat)! The new windows are designed to be tight and not to allow the moisture in your home to escape. It then becomes very important to control the humidity in your home.



Major Sources of Moisture Contributing to Condensation

Where does all the moisture come from?
In a word: everywhere.

- In the kitchen moisture is generated by cooking food, water from the sink, running the dishwasher, etc. Cooking can add up to five pints of water into the air per day.
- In the bathroom moisture comes from showers, tubs, sinks and spas. A shower can add a pint of water per day.
- Washers and indoor-vented dryers contribute as well, adding several pints per day.
- Basements and crawl spaces can channel dampness from the ground into your home.
- Plants can create a greenhouse effect. Several plants can add up to five pints of water per day.
- Even just normal breathing and perspiration by a family of four adds a half pint each hour.



How You Can Get Rid of Excess Moisture

1. Make sure you have good ventilation in high-humidity areas: bathrooms, kitchens, laundry areas and the basement.
2. Vent gas burners and clothes dryers to the outside of your home.
3. Install exhaust fans in the kitchen, bathrooms, and laundry rooms. If you already have them, try running them for longer periods of time.
4. Utilize a dehumidifier.
5. When cooking, keep pots and pans covered to hold moisture in.
6. Control or cover other sources of humidity such as radiator water pans, large plants, fish tanks, etc.
7. Take shorter showers and install water-restricting faucets. You will lower the humidity levels and your energy bills as well.
8. Check and reroute drainage away from your home to minimize the moisture in and around your basement and foundation.



How much humidity is the right amount?

With today's modern construction techniques, homes are much tighter and energy-efficient. As a result, newer homes don't usually need moisture added into the air; new homes are more likely to have trouble getting rid of it.

So what level of humidity is appropriate to keep us comfortable without dampening our surroundings? Using **70 degrees Fahrenheit** as a reference point for a comfortable room temperature, refer to the following chart for temperature and humidity levels that are generally considered comfortable.



Outdoor Air Temperature	Recommended Maximum Humidity
Below -20 degrees	15%
-20 degrees to -10 degrees	20%
-10 degrees to 0 degrees	25%
0 degrees to 10 degrees	30%
10 degrees to 20 degrees	35%
20 degrees to 40 degrees	40%

SOURCES:

1. *Moisture Condensation*; published by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2. *The Condensation Problem*; by H.B. Dickens, published by the Canadian National Research Council
3. *Moisture Condensation in Well-Insulated Homes*; published by Dow chemical Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Is there any condensation that's temporary?

There are two causes of temporary window condensation, and they normally disappear after a few weeks.

First, there is moisture that comes from new construction or remodeling. Moisture is present in new wood, plaster, and other building materials. When the heating season starts, this moisture gradually flows into the air of the home. After a few weeks or a season of heating, this moisture will disappear.

Second, the same type of moisture can accumulate in a milder form at the beginning of each heating season. During the summer, your house absorbs moisture. After the first few weeks of heating, your home will "dry out" and you will have less window condensation.

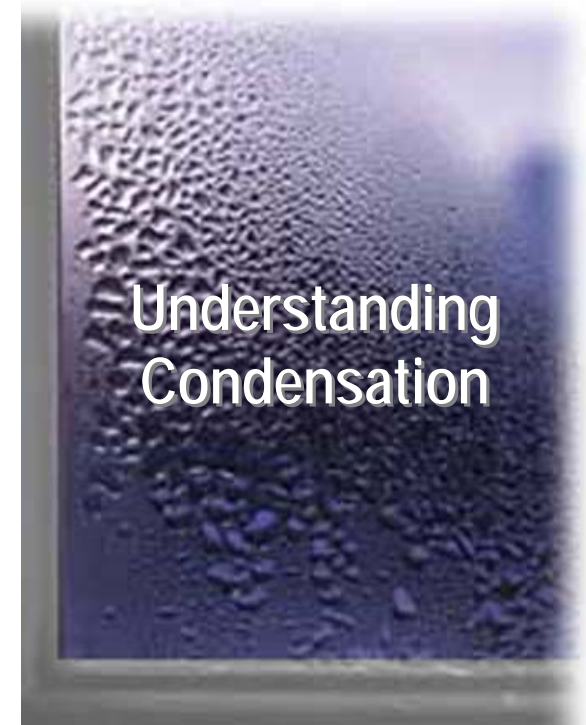
What if the condensation is in between the panes of glass?

As building experts often point out, windows should not be blamed for condensation. They merely are an indicator of too much moisture in the air.

In the event you see condensation between the panes of glass in a Feldco window, contact our service department. Moisture between the glass means the seal on your window has failed, which is covered under the Feldco warranty.



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