

WINDOWS DON'T CREATE WATER!!

CONDENSATION

WHERE IT COMES FROM, AND WHAT YOU SHOULD DO ABOUT IT!

We all know windows don't create water. If they could, there would never be a drought.

But, some people seem to think that windows do manufacture water. They call up window contractors and say "These windows are no good. They are all wet and even if I dry the window the water comes back!"

Well, it is not the window's fault. Water on windows is CONDENSATION. It can be a problem, and it has a solution. But please remember, the water does not come from the window.

What causes condensation? There are a number of factors that contribute to condensation. First, is the better and tighter homes being constructed today that does not allow the moisture in the house to escape. Second, is a combination of more labor saving devices in the home, more appliances, more showers, etc. Third, is the humidity level in the house is probably too high.

Humidity is the invisible water vapor in the air. It naturally flows toward drier air since this air has a lower vapor pressure. In cold weather, the air outside generally has a lower vapor pressure than the warmer air in your house. The humidity in your house tries to escape to the lower vapor pressure outside and as a result condenses on the glass of your windows. The result is similar to when a glass of ice water gets condensation on the outside of the glass on warm summer day.

The tight construction of modern homes traps the moisture in several ways. The increased use of plastics, certain paints, tiles, etc. does not permit the water to escape your home. Couple this with the fact the most homes are smaller today and the result is too much water vapor in a smaller area.

Now that we know what causes condensation, how can we solve the problem created by it? The answer is easy! Control the humidity in your home. Relative humidity is the percentage of moisture in the air in relation to complete saturation. When the air will not hold any more moisture, it is said to be saturated.

There are maximum safe humidities for your home. If these humidity levels are maintained, you can avoid excessive condensation. The following chart shows relative humidity for a 70° F indoor air temperature. Higher temperatures would require lower humidity levels.

Outside Air Temperature	Recommended Relative Humidity
-20°F or Below	Not more than 15%
-20°F to -10°F	Not more than 20%
-10°F to 0°F	Not more than 25%
0°F to 10°F	Not more than 30%
10°F to 20°F	Not more than 35%
20°F to 40°F	Not more than 40%

You can test your home using a humidistat.