

Window Condensation

Andersen Windows

www.andersenwindows.com

10/10/2007



Q. How can I get rid of condensation that forms on glass panes?

A. The answer varies, depending upon whether the condensation is on the Exterior Pane, the Interior Pane or Between the Panes.

EXTERIOR PANE

Condensation on the exterior glass pane is a result of moisture in the outside air exceeding certain limits and the temperature of the glass falling below the dew point in the air. This is a natural phenomenon and it will evaporate once the day warms.

INTERIOR PANE

Edges or Entire Pane

Condensation on the interior glass pane is a result of too much moisture in the air of the home. When warm, moist room air comes in contact with a cool glass surface, the air is cooled and, if there is enough moisture in the air, the dew point will be reached and the water condenses. A good analogy is the condensation that forms on the outside of a cold drinking glass on a hot, humid summer day. The warm air meeting the cool surface of the glass causes this condensation.

This condition is common in new homes, where it may take months for the moisture from paint and fresh building materials to dissipate.

To reduce humidity levels in the home, suggest that the home owner:

- Check the home's ventilation;
- Use a dehumidifier to remove moisture;
- Turn the humidifier on furnace down or off;
- Turn on exhaust fans during showers; and
- Allow ceiling fans to run and circulate the air.

Oval Condensation in the Center of the Glass

An oval condensation ring on the interior glass surface is an indicator that interior and exterior panes of glass have collapsed toward each other. The window sash or door panel should be repaired or replaced.

BETWEEN THE PANES

When the seals along the outer perimeter of glass fail and allow moisture to penetrate the space between panes of insulated glass, window or door glass will appear cloudy or fogged. Suggest that the home owner check and make sure the glass does not have chemicals or pollutants on the outside surface. Once the home owner confirms that the condensation is between the panes, the window sash or door panel will need to be replaced.