

Hints For Homeowners

Don't Concede To Condensation

(NAPS)—That wet mist that sometimes clouds the interior glass on your home's windows could be the first warning sign that your home is retaining too much moisture. Even if your home doesn't actually feel damp, excess moisture can do damage in unseen places. Condensation is the tip-off.



Venting skylights or roof windows can breathe life into your home and help minimize moisture.

the winter to expel hot, moist air.

Understanding Condensation

Condensation occurs when the air becomes saturated with moisture and releases it in the form of water.

It causes problems including mildew on walls, window seals and baseboards; peeling or bubbling exterior paint; deteriorating attic and wall insulation; damaged floor tiles and deteriorating furniture; and rotting of structural wood between outside walls.

Controlling Condensation

To fight moisture problems caused by condensation, you need to limit the amount of water vapor in your home. Installing doublepaned insulated windows and doors with energy-efficient Low-E glazings will help, or you could double-pane your current windows by adding exterior storm panels. Simpler methods include taking shorter showers and cooking with lids on your pots to reduce moisture.

Since you can't control all sources of moisture in your home, ventilation is very important. Your home needs to breathe to fight condensation. By allowing moist inside air to escape and dry outdoor air to enter, you can reduce your home's humidity level. Take these steps to help ventilate your home:

- Run kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans more often during

- Open a window in each room a few minutes daily to keep air circulated.
- Keep window drapes, blinds and shades open, allowing warm air to circulate around the glass.
- Keep attic louvers open to release hot air.
- Open basement vents and crawl space vents.
- Make sure your clothes dryer and gas appliances properly vent to the outside.

Additional ventilation can also help control condensation. Venting skylights and roof windows can not only help your house breathe easier but bring healthy, natural light into your home while providing more privacy, especially in bathrooms. They can be opened with manual or electric controls to release warm, moist air.

To obtain a free three-booklet package on condensation and skylights, call 1-800-283-2831 or e-mail at www.veluxusa.com.

For government information on window and skylight energy efficiency, visit www.energystar.gov, and for independent agency information, visit www.nfrc.org or www.efficientwindows.org.