



**IMPRESSIONS**  
**WINDOWS**

**CONDENSATION**

Water vapour is continually present in the atmosphere, inside the home the humidity is increased by normal living activities that create steam such as cooking, bathing, boiling a kettle, and even the simple act of breathing!

Water vapour is invisible in the air but upon contact with cold surfaces such as windows, mirrors, tiles etc, condensation occurs and the water vapour turns to water droplets.

Fitting double-glazing does not necessarily solve underlying condensation problems.

Traditional house construction allowed the escape of water vapour through natural ventilation – open flues, air bricks and ill fitting windows and doors.

Nowadays homes are much more sealed, resulting in trapped water vapour and increased problems of condensation.

The advent of more energy efficient glazing can, in certain circumstances lead to condensation being evident on the OUTSIDE of the window.

### **Minimising condensation**

#### **Ventilation**

Provide natural ventilation wherever possible by:

Opening a window (security should be borne in mind when leaving a window open).

Fitting a ventilator/extraction unit in the kitchen and bathroom.

Fitting wall vents to provide airflow.

Fitting trickle vents to existing windows

## **Heating**

Maintain some permanent heat in the house during cold weather. Marginally increase the temperature in areas where condensation is a particular problem.

If possible fit radiators under windows to maintain the temperature on the inside pane of your windows.

## **Circulation**

Water vapour will easily drift on convection currents far from where originated.

Keep internal doors to kitchen and bathroom areas closed and draught-sealed where possible, to prevent the excessively moist air in these rooms being transferred to other areas of the house.

Bedroom windows should have a night ventilation facility to provide air movement. Ideally if bedroom doors are closed, a ventilation grille should be installed in or above the door.

To ensure air flow in the vicinity of windows, curtains should be a minimum of 150mm (6") away from the window, with suitable gaps, top and bottom, to allow air circulation.