

# Condensation: Causes and Cures



## What's Condensation?

Condensation is the result of high humidity levels. It happens when warm, moist air touches a surface that's colder than the dew point. The dew point is the temperature at which air becomes saturated and produces dew. As the air temperature drops below its dew point, the excess liquid appears on the colder surface. This is how you get moisture on windows.

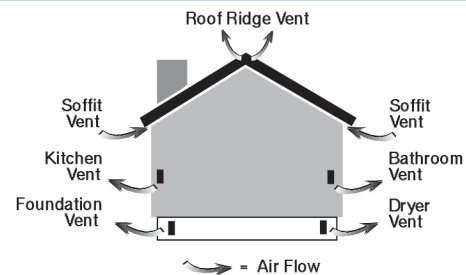
### Condensation on the Exterior of the Window

Like dew on grass or moisture on the outside of your car windows, condensation forming on the exterior of your home's windows is a natural occurrence on energy-efficient windows. Be patient. The sun rising will evaporate this condensation as it does on your lawn.

Temporary Condensation	Wood, plaster, cement, and other building materials produce a great deal of moisture. Concrete foundations can take up to a year to completely dry out. Rapid drops in temperature can also create temporary condensation problems during the heating season.
Humidity Factors	Several things add moisture to the air in our homes. Breathing and perspiration add 3 pints of water per person into the air every day. Every activity that uses water increases the level of moisture in the air. These activities include cooking, laundry, taking showers, and washing dishes.
Controlling Humidity	Ventilation is the key to allowing moisture and humidity to escape your home. Houses are now made tighter than ever; with house-wrap, insulation and well-crafted windows from Harvey Building Products, proper steps need to be taken to control humidity.

### Tips to increase air circulation:

- Turn on vents when using gas burners and clothes dryers
- Install exhaust fans in the kitchen, bathrooms, and laundry room
- Use a dehumidifier
- Install a roof ridge vent and soffit for attic ventilation
- Install foundation vents



## The Bottom Line

Your windows do not cause the condensation. Condensation on the inside of your windows is a sign that your windows are working correctly. Old, drafty windows allow the moisture in your home to escape, along with your heat. When properly installed, Harvey windows do not allow the humidity in your house out. They are intended to keep your conditioned air in, and the outside air out. Which is why you may notice more condensation than with your old windows.

## Condensation vs. Seal Failure

It's very important to note that condensation is not an indicator of a seal failure in your windows. If there is fogging, hazing, or moisture occurring between the insulated glass panes that cannot be touched or wiped away, that could be an indication of a failed seal. If this happens, please contact our Field Service department at 800-822-0437.