



# Your Conservatory and Condensation

## The Facts & Some Advice

### What is condensation?

Put simply, condensation is water vapour suspended in air, which then settles on cool surfaces.

### Where does most water vapour come from?

Condensation is related to the way that we heat, ventilate and insulate our homes. The most common sources of water vapour are cooking, drying clothes on radiators, washing-up, house plants, the breath we exhale (astonishingly, 2 sleeping adults release one litre of moisture a night!), and from moisture in newly built extensions (as with any new building work a period of drying out is required, and it is not uncommon for conservatories to take as much as 6-12 months to dry out completely).

### Where can condensation occur?

Condensation can occur in a number of places, usually in cold spots i.e. an unheated room or a conservatory without any form of adequate heating. Condensation forming on the room side surface of the DGU indicates a high water vapour content and that the temperature of the room side glass surface is inadequate.

Condensation within the polycarbonate sheets on the roof is to be initially expected, and will clear once warmer weather arrives.

However, if the conservatory has a glass roof then condensation within the DGU indicates that the unit has broken down and you will need to contact us in writing to arrange for a replacement under the terms of your guarantee.

### How do I know if I have condensation?

The most common forms of condensation are steamed up windows and puddles of water on the window sills. In extreme cases, dark spots of mould will appear around the windows and silicone seals.

### How do I reduce condensation in my conservatory?

- If your conservatory has only just been finished, it may help to leave some background heating on to help dry out the building works.
- Ensure a regular change of air within the house and conservatory, especially within the conservatory if it has only just been completed. Leave a window slightly ajar for part of the day, or if you are unable to do so safely, secure the windows on the night vent facility instead.
- Do not leave the conservatory shut up all day and open the door only at night. You must try to maintain an even temperature throughout the house.
- Make sure that your conservatory and house are adequately heated throughout the day, not just when you are home in the evenings. If your conservatory does not have radiators installed, then consider buying an oil filled radiator as a relatively economically way of heating it.
- Do not fill your conservatory with too many plants.
- If the above does not help then you may find that purchasing (or hiring) a dehumidifier will help to control the water vapour.

