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Condensation on Glass

Condensation on the interior surfaces of glass is a common occurrence. Water from warm, moist air will condense on cold glass surfaces. This is typical of the cold, humid winter climates found in many areas of the United States. Insulating units are often used in these areas to minimize condensation problems. However, insulating units, even Low E units, may not stop all condensation under all conditions.

Interior condensation on glass is usually not a problem in California, Arizona and Nevada except for the cold, mountainous areas of those states. However, a new phenomenon has become increasingly common in California. Because Low E insulating units dramatically reduce heat loss through the glass, the exterior glass temperatures are much lower for Low E insulating units than the surface temperatures of monolithic glass under the same conditions. If the exterior air is relatively warm and humid, a common condition during the spring and early summer in California, moisture may condense on the exterior surface of insulating units (especially Low E units). When this type of condensation occurs, many people believe they have “defective” glass. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth; the condensation is a result of the energy saving properties of the glass.

