Tackling Condensation

Clearview secondary glazing

Help eliminate condensation in your home with secondary glazing

CLEARVIEW SECONDARY GLAZING 10 YEAR GUARANTEE

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Thinking about secondary glazing to get rid of condensation in your property?

You've made a good decision.

Fitting Clearview secondary glazing in your property eliminates condensation in the majority of cases. Occasionally there are conditions where it can't significantly reduce condensation, but in most cases installing secondary glazing really helps.

Secondary glazing provides an effective internal seal, which allows for balanced ventilation in the space between the primary glass and the secondary glazed unit. This seal prevents the inner glass becoming too cold, and so stops condensation forming. Clearview secondary glazing is a simple to fit, cost-effective solution – whether you fit yourself or have a Clearview approved installer fit for you.

What IS condensation?

Air is full of moisture. The warmer the air, the more moisture it can support. When air temperature drops (as it does in autumn, for instance) the air can't contain all the moisture and so tiny drops of water appear. You see it when you breathe on a cold day, or when the bathroom mirror mists over when you shower. That's condensation.

Condensation appears in places where there isn't much air movement - in or behind wardrobes and cupboards. It often forms on north-facing walls, or near windows.

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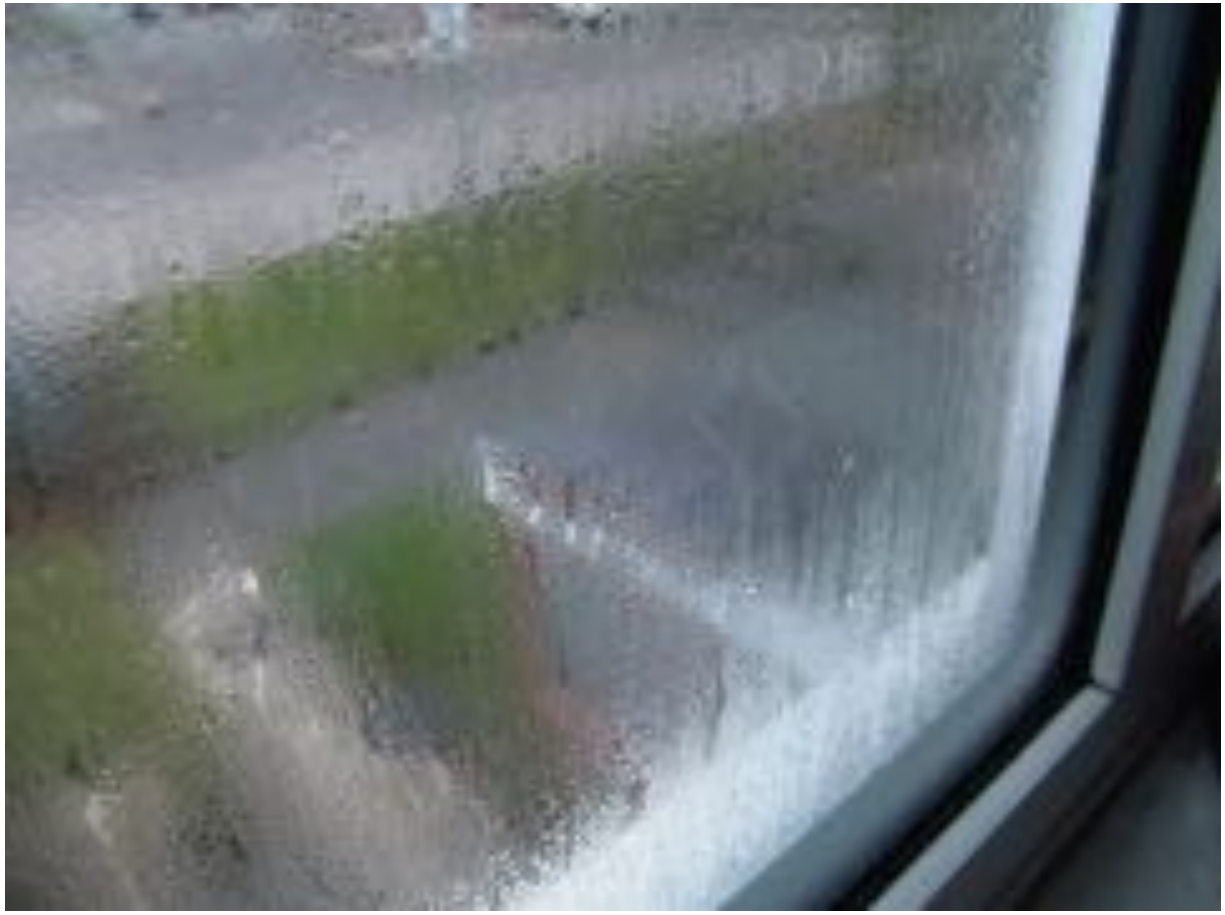
What causes condensation?

Each of us adds nearly 60ml of water to the atmosphere an hour as we breathe. Heating appliances, like paraffin stoves, contribute a staggering volume of 10 pints of water for every 8 pints of fuel used, and the consumption of 1 cubic foot of gas discharges 1 cubic foot of water into the air. Cooking, and washing and drying laundry indoors also contribute to this reservoir of water.

The condition of primary windows can be a contributory factor. If they are ill fitting, they can allow too much cold air to circulate between the glasses, causing condensation. Glazing putty in poor condition allows rain underneath, getting drawn inside the windows by capillary action, increasing the humidity of the air within the cavity. A building construction fault can create a condensation problem. Masonry in poor condition, or the primary windows with rotten frame sections.

More…

What causes condensation?



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Clearview technicians have researched the problem of condensation, and acted on advice from the Insulation Glazing Association and the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

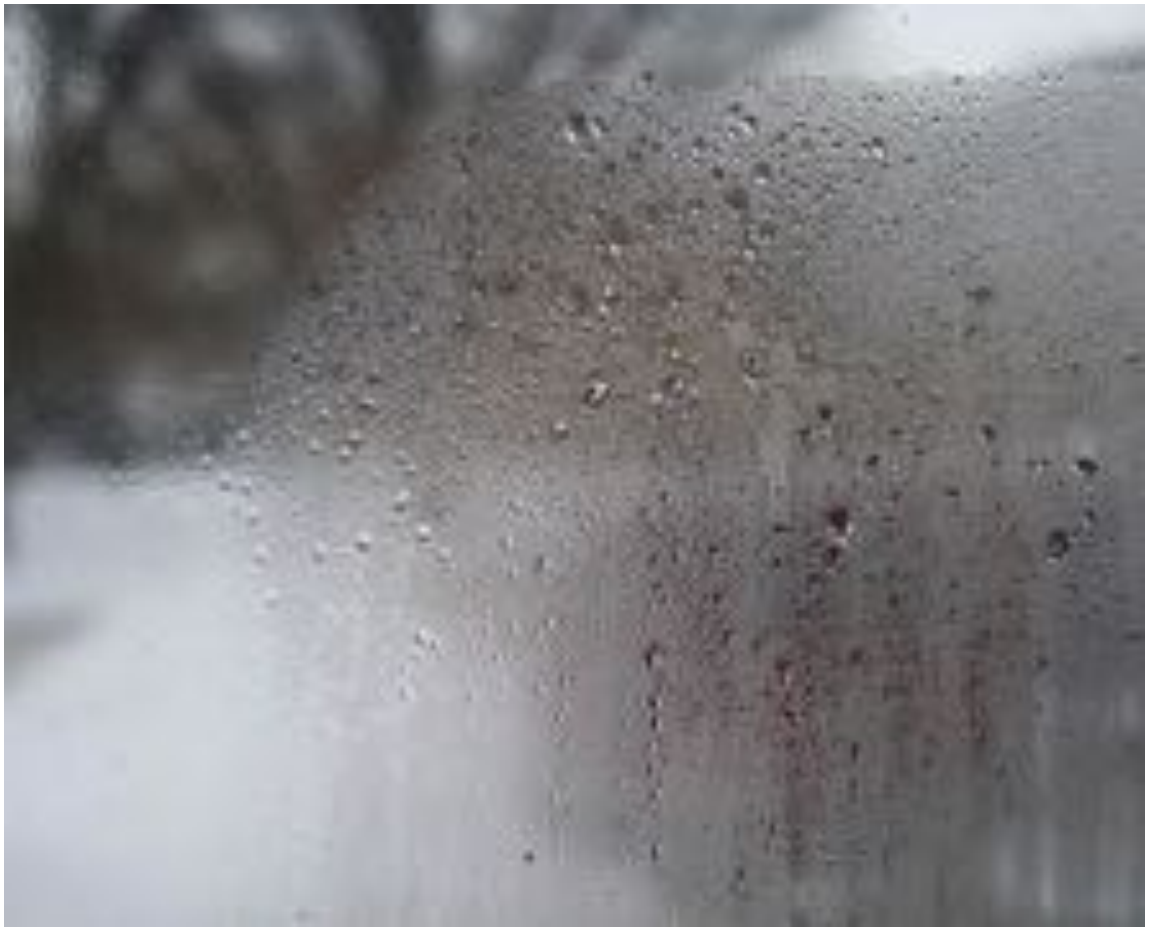
Sometimes, condensation is attributed to fitting secondary glazing. However, building experts agree that's seldom the cause, and secondary glazing cannot cause condensation where it didn't previously exist.

It's clear that condensation is a complex problem. And although, in the vast majority of cases, installing secondary glazing eliminates or reduces it, there are occasional cases where it's impossible to identify the source of excess humidity, or effect a cure, our contract draws attention to this.

In many properties, other causes of moisture are evident, on walls for example, where visible dampness climbs upwards from floor level indicating rain penetration, or rising damp because of a faulty damp proof course.

More…

What causes condensation?



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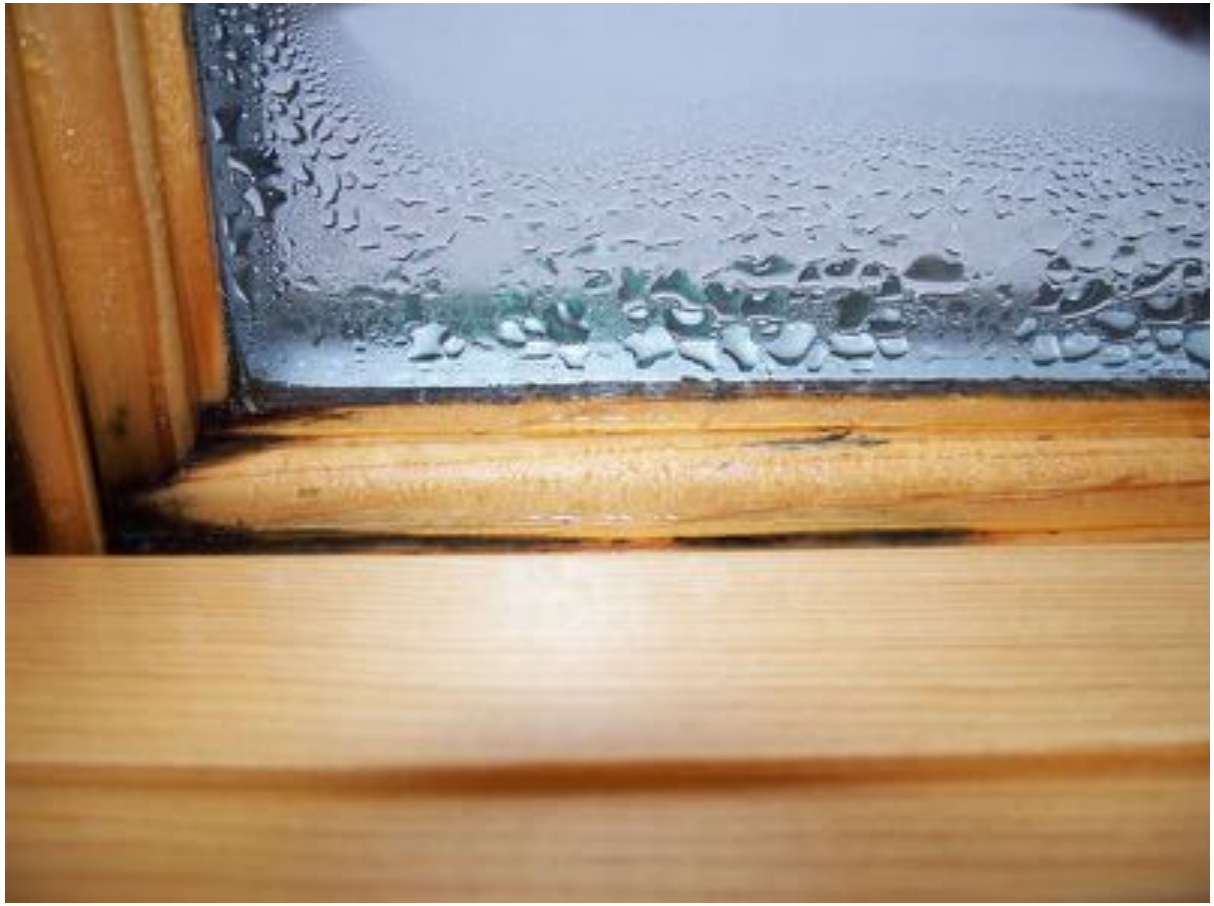
Many older properties don't have damp courses. As well as the primary condensation causes, there can be an associated secondary cause; in that as the initial moisture evaporates the resulting salt crystals become concentrated on or near walls. Most of these salts eventually appear as efflorescence causing no further trouble, but some (notably chlorides and nitrates) remain, and being hygroscopic, absorb moisture from the air.

Outside, vegetation, climbing plants and faulty gutters can be sources of moisture. The condition of brickwork pointing and sills, and the way window and door frames are fitted should be checked, as they can affect the success of secondary glazing from a condensation point of view.

Despite adequate heat, without sufficient ventilation a small amount of internal moisture can become excess humidity. The modern tendency to seal our homes against bad weather also prevents buildings from breathing. By concentrating on preventing moisture from coming in, we've also prevented interior moisture from escaping.

Ideally, a building's humidity, heating and ventilation should be balanced. The balance will vary seasonally, but a bit of time experimenting with finding the correct levels is often rewarded with a good measure of success.

4 steps to reduce humidity in your home



1 Control the source of humidity. Vent gas burners, clothes dryers etc. to the outside. Fit extractor fans, particularly in kitchen or bathroom. Make sure you have adequate vents and air bricks throughout the house.

2 Provide ventilation. Outside air is usually dryer, so dilutes the humidity of inside air. In older houses, this often occurs automatically because of constant infiltration of outside air through ill-fitting windows and doors.

3 Heating. Provide dry heat to counterbalance most of the moisture produced by modern living.

4 Air passage. Ensure existing air bricks are unobstructed.

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5 ways of controlling condensation in your house

1 Fit secondary glazing

2 Increase the running time of kitchen or other ventilation fans.

3 Encourage moisture to escape by opening fireplace dampers or vents.

4 Open doors and windows for a few minutes each day to air your house.

5 Air kitchen, laundry and bathrooms during or just following use, closing any doors which allow steam to permeate the rest of the house.

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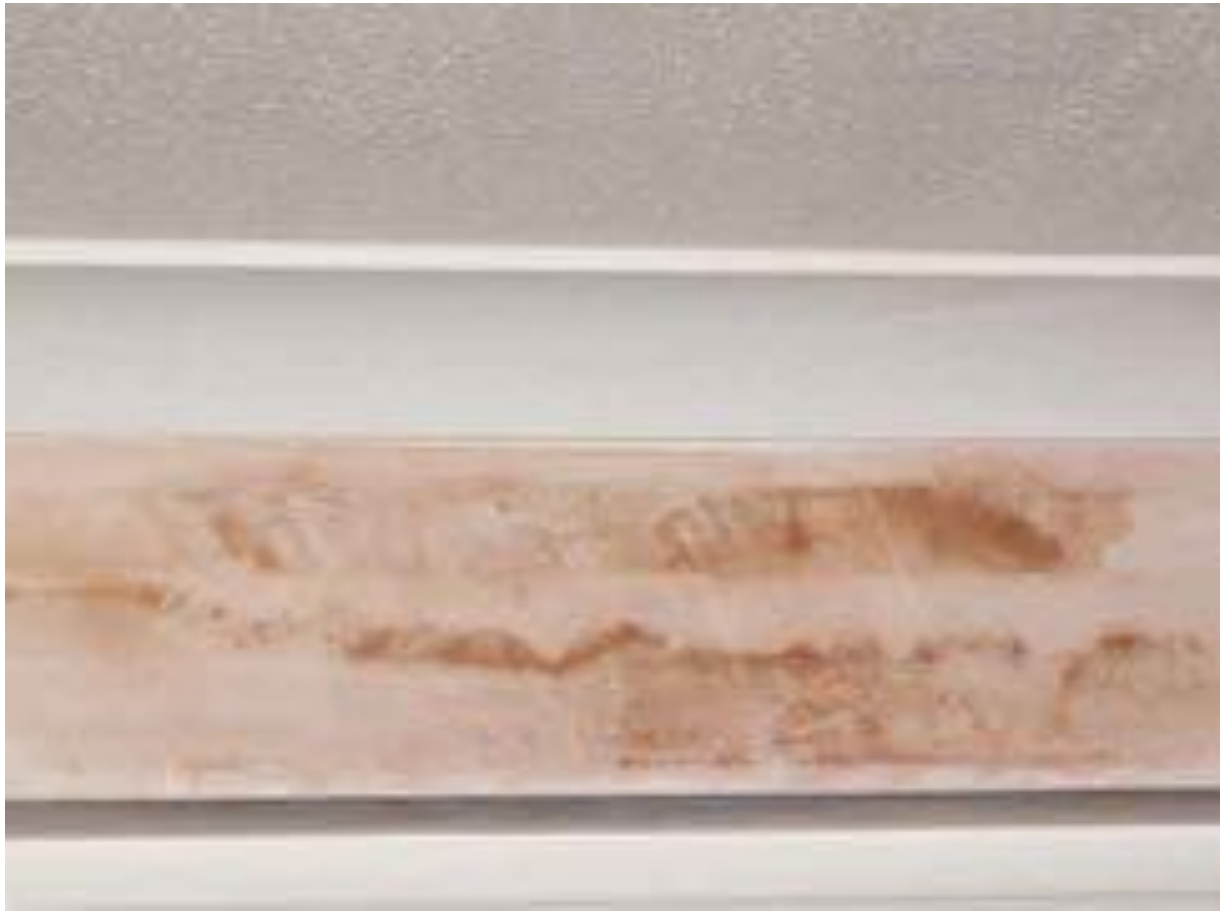
Temporary condensation



There are two frequent causes of temporary condensation, which disappear after a month or so of heating. The first affects new buildings. Timber, plaster and other building materials contain a lot of water. As the heating is turned on, this moisture gradually flows into the surrounding air, before disappearing. The second cause, in a milder form, occurs in autumn. As the central heating is turned on, a small amount of moisture the building has absorbed during the summer will dry out.

Got a condensation query? Contact Clearview at info@clearviewsg.co.uk

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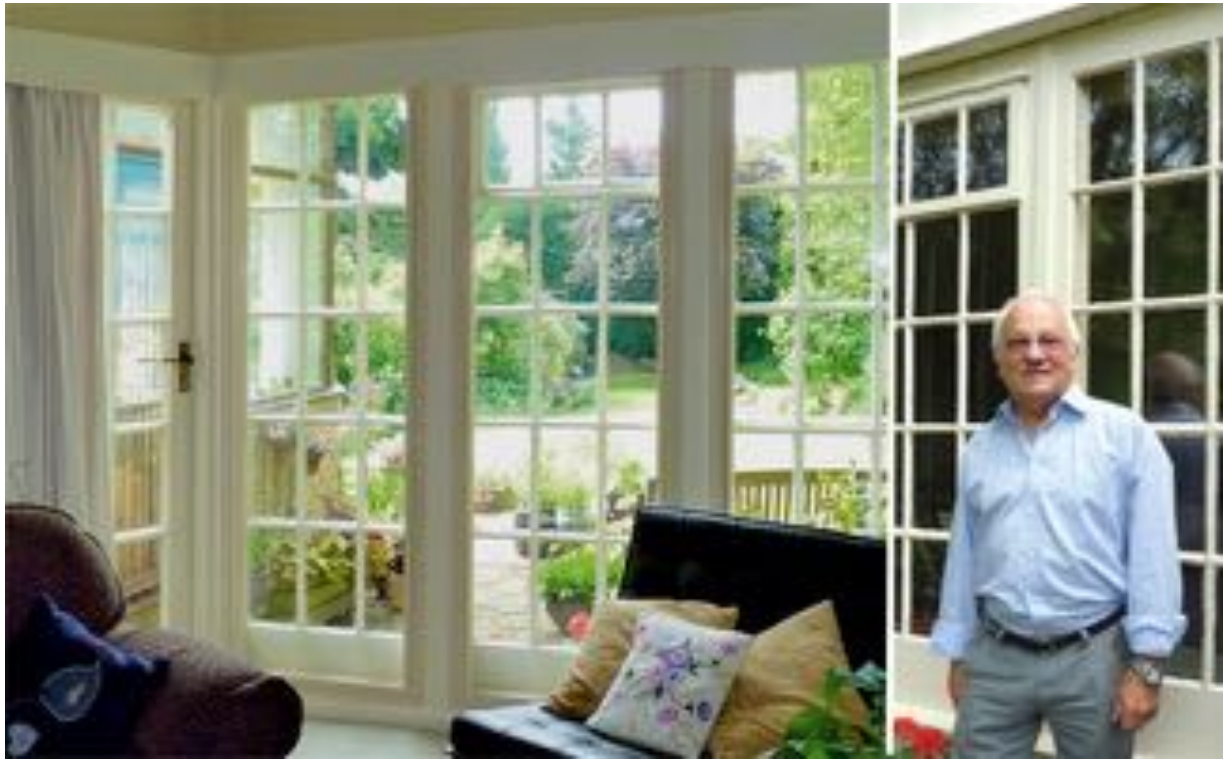
Case studies:
Tackling condensation with secondary glazing



Client: Mr & Mrs Young
Property type: 1930s house
Clearview fitted secondary glazing to two small upstairs windows, a large rear bay, and door which is part of the bay. The original wooden frame of the bay was still in good condition, but the back room was chilly and the windows produced so much condensation that Mr & Mrs Young regularly had to change damp curtains. Clearview fitted secondary glazing in under a day, including a panel fitted over the glass panes in the door, enabling its handle to still be used.

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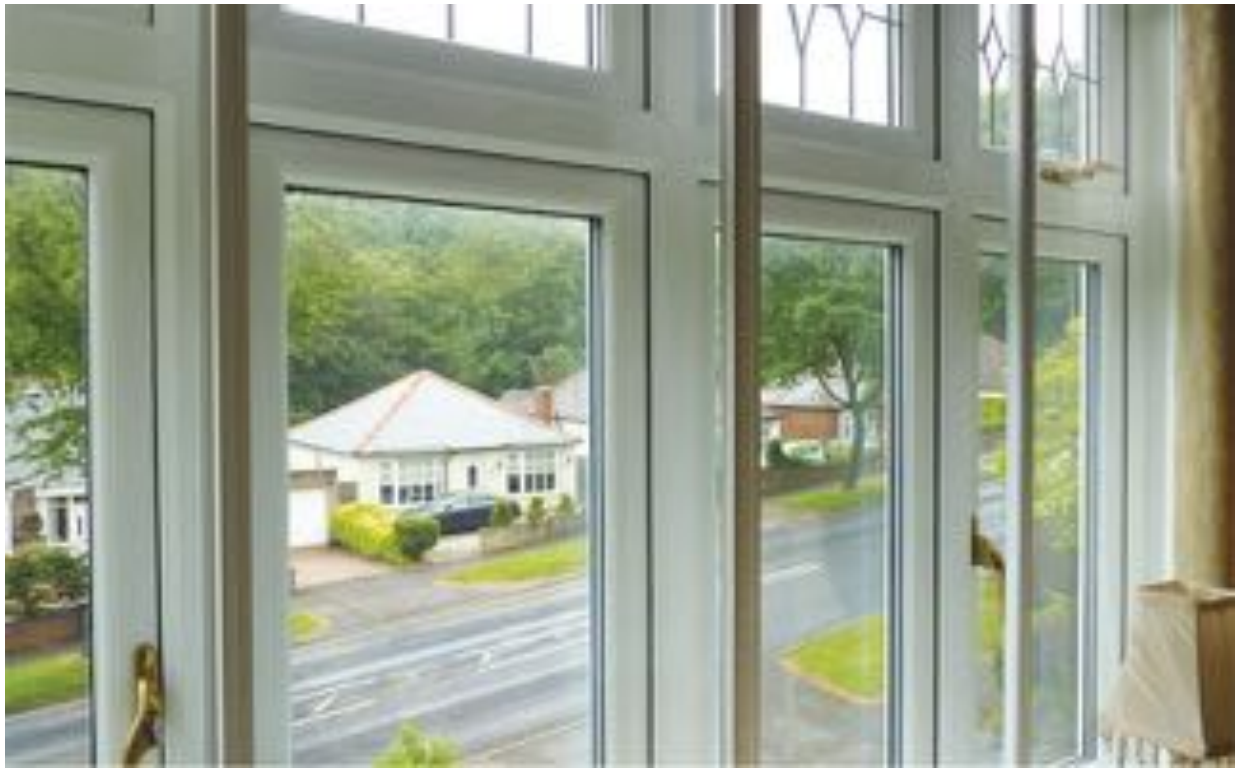
Case studies: Tackling condensation with secondary glazing

Client: Mr & Mrs Skevington
Property type: 1900s semi detached

For years the Skevingtons had been mopping up condensation from their bay window every morning. The single-glazed bay in the front lounge looked good, but made the room cold, and dripped rivers of condensation. The couple's house is in a conservation area, so planning officers take a dim view of window alterations that change the exterior look of a house, and the Skevington's liked the look of the original window, so Clearview fitted secondary glazing to it.

"The lounge is much warmer since the secondary glazing was fitted and the condensation has stopped. We have also noticed a reduction in noise from the main road outside. We really like the fact that the secondary glazing does not detract from the look of the bay, inside or out. We don't notice it." Says Mr Skevington.

Case studies: Tackling condensation with secondary glazing



Client: Beauchief, Sheffield homeowner
Property type: 1930s home
This customer wanted acoustic secondary glazing - it also got rid of her condensation problems!
Road noise disturbed the sleep of a Beauchief homeowner, who was woken early morning (and sometimes in the night) by vehicles on the road outside. Once secondary glazing was fitted to her bedroom window, she was able to enjoy a good night's sleep again. Another single glazed window was often wet with condensation in the winter, but now it has been secondary glazed, that's disappeared too.

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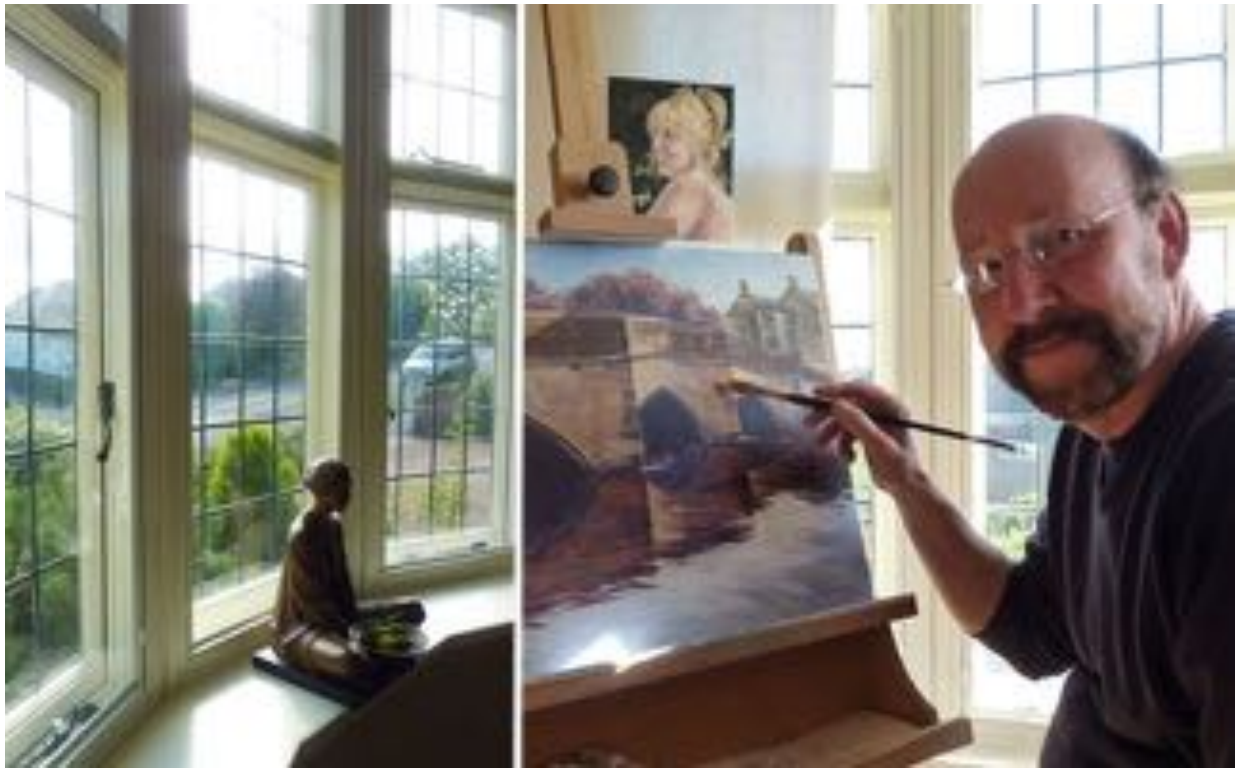
Case studies: Tackling condensation with secondary glazing



Client: Mr & Mrs Inman
Property type: Period bungalow

Mr Inman says: "Condensation was a problem from September to April in the lounge at the rear of our house. We constantly had to wipe up water dripping from the windows - but the secondary glazing put an end to that. Once again the secondary glazing has stopped the condensation, and retained heat."

"The secondary glazing has improved the insulation of our house, and it's much more comfortable. I can now paint close to the windows without the discomfort of draughts. As a surveyor, I can tell you that Clearview's work is high quality."

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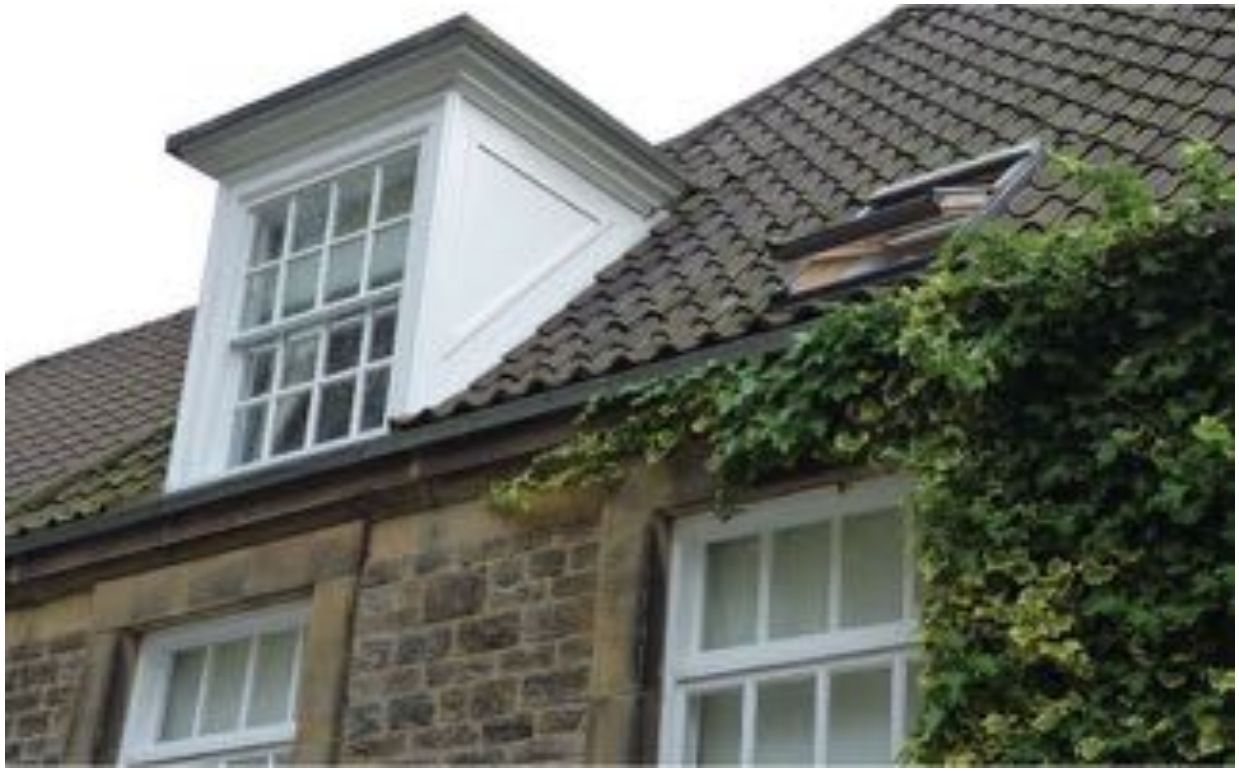
Case studies: Tackling condensation with secondary glazing



Client: Rivelin, Sheffield homeowner Property type: Grade II listed building

“Our windows were beautiful, but not very energy efficient, though the main problem was condensation. Because our property is listed, there are strict rules about changing its windows - so secondary glazing was perfect. It has been so effective that next year we are having the rest of our windows fitted with it". Says this satisfied Clearview customer.

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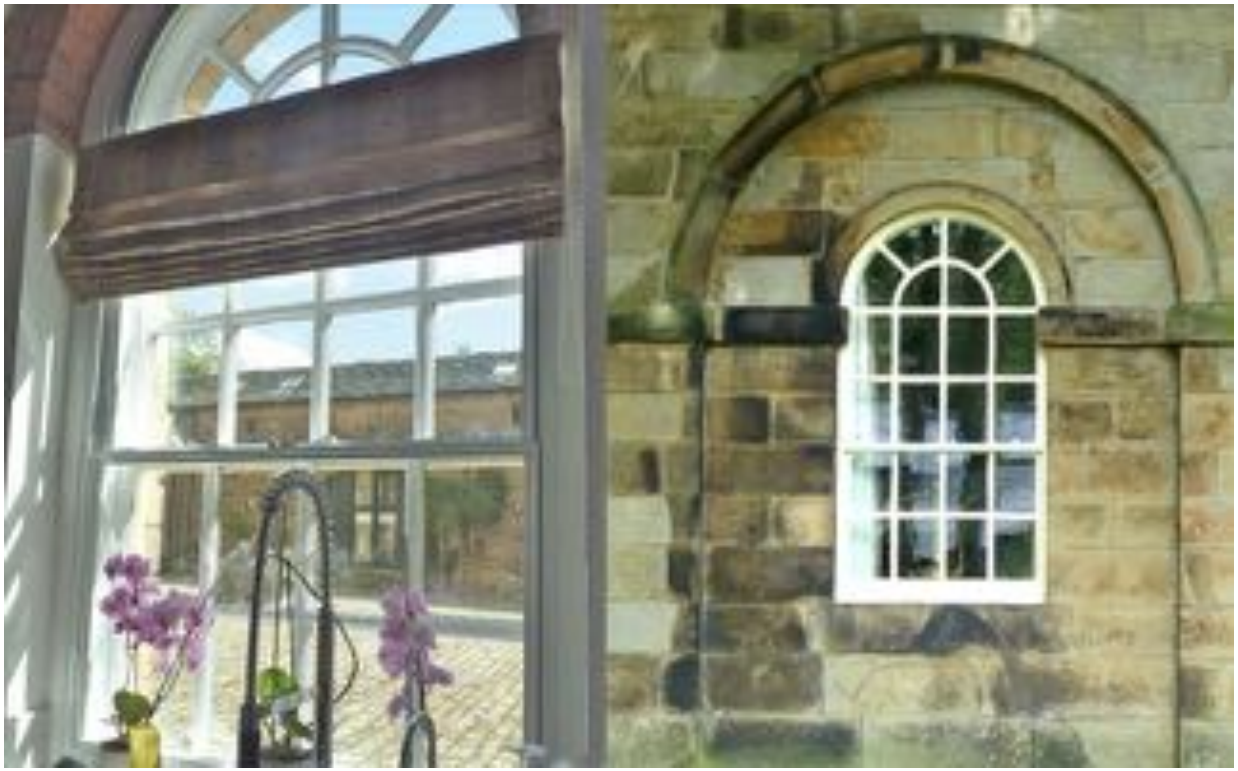
Case studies: Tackling condensation with secondary glazing



Client: Norton, Sheffield homeowners Property type: 1860s Grade II Listed former stable block

The original 1860s arched windows on this former stable block are an outstanding feature of this Grade II conversion. Double glazing these would have been cost-prohibitive, so the customers decided on secondary glazing. "We talked to a few companies about the work, but decided Clearview were the most competent, and knowledgeable. You can hardly notice the secondary glazing inside, and cannot see it at all from the outside - so it has retained the character of our home, while also making it more energy efficient."

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Case studies:
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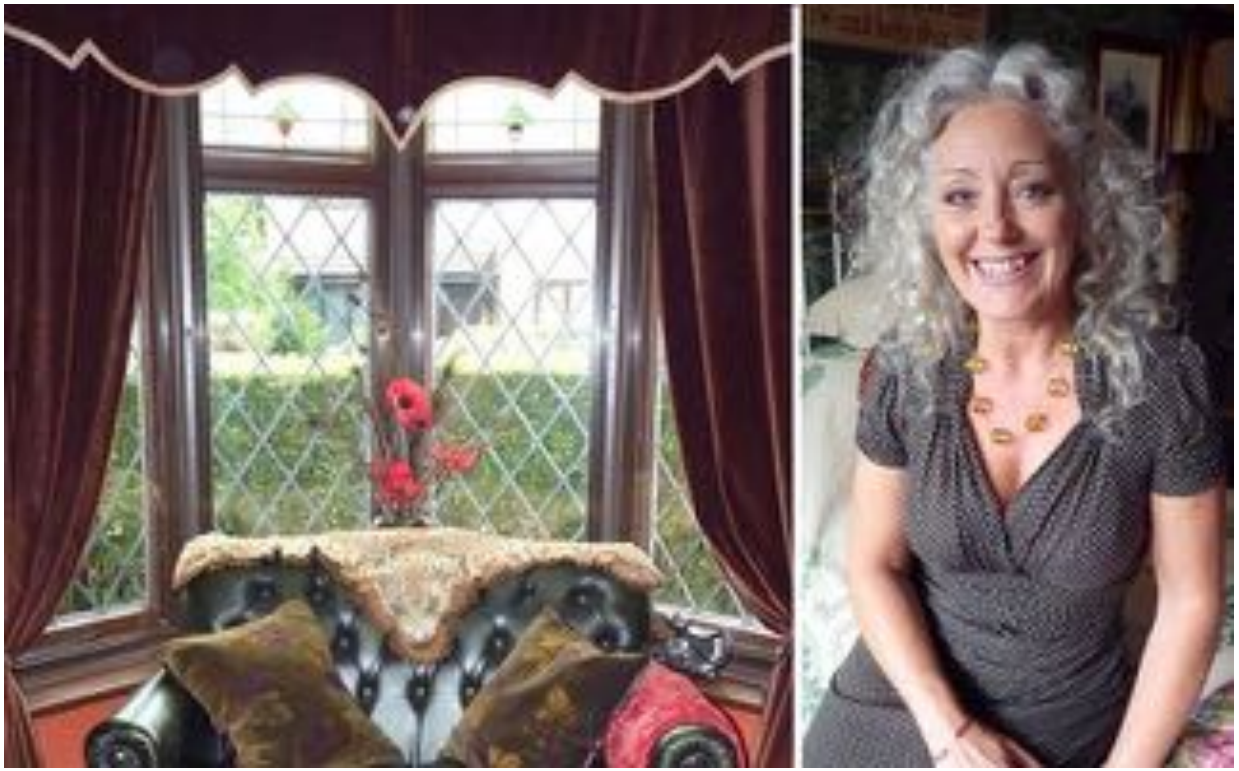

Client: Mr & Mrs Sanderson
Property type: Edwardian semi detached

"We had secondary glazing fitted in January," says Mr Sanderson,"and immediately noticed the benefits. Our dining room is much warmer, and quieter. But the most welcome change is that condensation no longer drips from the bay."

For more information and help on tackling your condensation problem with secondary glazing, email:
info@clearviewsg.co.uk
www.clearviewsg.co.uk

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