



## Information Sheet

### External condensation on energimax insulating units

Under particular weather conditions dew (or frost) forms on any unheated surface (the ground, roofs, walls, cars, etc.) exposed to a clear night sky. In the past this effect has not happened on the glass in heated buildings, since the heat that escapes through the glass warms the glass up slightly as it passes through. Even conventional double glazing allows sufficient heat to escape to prevent dew forming on the external face of the glass.

However, energimax insulating units are sufficiently resistant to the passage of heat (as they have such good thermal insulation) that in certain positions and in some weather conditions, it is now possible for the dew to form also on the external face of the glass. This is one visible manifestation of having superior insulating glass. [An analogy can be made with frost on roofs-those with good loft insulation can remain frosted for a long time, while those without quickly defrost.]

In order for this to happen the glass needs to be exposed to large areas of the night sky. Intervening trees, bushes or other buildings, which block off part of the sky, reduce the effect. Other 'microclimate' effects can also alleviate it. It is possible to get a situation where some windows have external condensation while others nearby do not.

In countries such as Sweden where most glazing is at least as good as energimax units, external condensation is a well known and accepted fact of better comfort and thermal insulation.