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## The B & D Monthly

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



This month's *Project Spotlight* is in Rehoboth.

For this project, we were contracted to construct an 30'x30' weather tight addition for extended family living. Everything went as planned and looks aesthetically pleasing and blends well with the home. Everyone was was thrilled with the results.

### Federal Tax Credits for Window, Door & Skylight Tax Credits Extended Through 2016

Federal Tax Credits for Windows, Doors, & Skylights have been extended through 2016. If you have installed any EnergyStar rated products in 2016, you will need the Manufacturers Certification when filing your taxes.

**Tax Credit Amount:** 10% of cost (not including installation costs), up to \$200 for windows and skylights; up to \$500 for doors. (Cumulative maximum tax credits for windows, doors, and skylights for all years combined is \$500)

**Requirements:** Must be ENERGY STAR certified.



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### Window Condensation Causes

Condensation forms when warm, moist air touches a surface that is colder than the dew point of the warm air. As that air becomes colder and its temperature drops below its dew point, it must release excess moisture to reach its new, lower dew point. It releases moisture in the form of water, which appears on the colder surface.

A common example of moisture condensation is when a glass of ice water "sweats" when you bring it outside in the summer. When the warm, moist air touches the cold glass, the temperature of the air drops below its dew point, forcing the air to release moisture in the form of water on the sides of the glass. There are many things in our homes that put moisture into the air. Normal breathing and perspiration adds 3 pints of water to the air every day for each person in your home. In fact, every activity that uses water adds more moisture to the air including cooking, taking showers, dish washing, and doing laundry.

#### What If Condensation Appears on Your New Harvey Windows?

Your new Harvey windows are designed to prevent air infiltration into and out of your home. Your old, drafty windows allowed the moisture in your home to escape (along with your heat)! Your new Harvey windows are tight and do not allow the moisture in your home to escape. You need to control the humidity in your home.

#### Controlling Indoor Humidity

Homes are now made tighter than ever. They are well insulated and no longer "breathe" on their own. Steps must be taken to ventilate the house, allowing moisture and humidity to escape.

Steps to control the humidity in your home include:

- ♦ Venting gas burners and clothes dryers to the outside.
- ♦ Installing exhaust fans in the kitchen, bathrooms, and laundry rooms.
- ♦ Controlling or covering other sources of humidity (radiator water pans, fish tanks, large numbers of plants, etc.).
- ♦ Installing a dehumidifier.
- ♦ Opening fireplace damper.
- ♦ Ventilating the crawl space or basement: Install foundation vents or leave a basement window cracked in the fall or early winter to ventilate your basement or crawlspace.
- ♦ Ventilating the attic: Because of vapor pressure, the moist warm air from your home can go right through your ceiling into your attic. If your attic is not ventilated, the humid air will condense on the cold underside of your roof. This condensation can start to rot the roof boards, cause ice dams, or drip down onto the ceiling below and damage your plaster, paint, and attic insulation.

With proper ventilation, you can eliminate condensation before it causes any major damage to your home. Remember, windows do not cause condensation.

The best way to avoid condensation is to reduce the humidity of the air inside your home.



B & D Construction Co., Inc.  
252 Britton Street  
Raynham, MA 02767  
508-823-2413  
www.banddconst.com



Questions or comments:

Email us at:

[info@banddconst.com](mailto:info@banddconst.com)