

Keeping your home dry in winter

Keeping warm and dry at home

In New Zealand, the winter months are June, July and August.

1 Talk about the differences between winter in your country and in New Zealand.

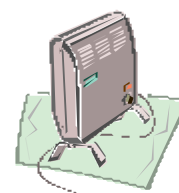
2 Read the text. Then answer the true/false questions.

Some migrants say:

- Their country has no winter! (Lucky them!)
- Their winter is at a different time of year.
- Their winter is not as cold as NZ.
- A few say their winters are colder than in NZ.
- Others say they have wind, rain, snow, frost and fog just like NZ.



Those that had a **colder** winter had some extra things in their houses that some of us do **not** have. They had **double-glazed** windows and **central heating**. Some people in New Zealand have central heating but the electricity bills are quite **expensive**. Most people use heaters, some people have fires. The heaters that people use are usually gas, electric or oil-filled. Many learners said that heating costs were expensive in New Zealand.



True/false questions:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| a) Some learners have no winter in their country | True/False |
| b) Most people have central heating in NZ | True/False |
| c) Many people think heating is cheap in NZ | True/False |
| d) Heaters are usually gas, electric or oil-filled | True/False |

Keeping warm and dry at home (cont.)

3 Discuss ways to keep warm in NZ that do not cost a lot of money.



Here are some more suggestions:

- Close the curtains as soon as it gets dark to keep the room warm
- Wear more warm clothes
- Have a hot shower or bath to warm you up
- Put a rug over your legs if you are just sitting
- Go to bed early
- Keep busy! (In other words, keep moving so you don't get cold)



Condensation

1 Read the text.

What is condensation?

Many people have a problem with **condensation** in their home in winter.

It can make your home wet and cold. **Condensation** is when water collects on your windows because there is lots of moisture in your home and it is very cold outside. In the mornings you will see that your windows are covered with **condensation** and sometimes the water will be dripping onto your windowsills.



The first thing you should do is dry your windows and windowsills.

There are different ways to do this. Some people wipe the windows

with cloths or old towels. Some people use folded newspapers to soak up the water.

Many people open the windows to let some fresh air in. It is important to do this otherwise your house will stay cold and damp.



What is condensation? (cont.)

2 Now fill in the missing words.

Condensation is when _____ collects on your _____ because there is lots of _____ in your home and it is very _____ outside.

What are the first things you should do in the morning when you have **condensation**?

_____ your windows and windowsills. _____ the windows.

What kinds of things cause condensation?

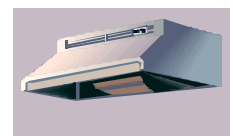
- 1 Talk about the kinds of things that cause condensation.
- 2 Talk about some ways to reduce condensation in your home.
- 3 Read the text.



Here are some ideas to reduce the amount of condensation in your home and to make it dryer, warmer and healthier to live in.



Make sure your gas heater is '**flued**' to the outside. Put your clothes dryer in the garage if it is not connected to an outside **vent**. Close the bathroom door and open the window when you are having a shower, (unless you have an **extractor fan** in your bathroom). Use a **rangehood** when you are cooking if you have one, or open a window.



Some houses already have **insulation** (like pink batts) in the ceiling and walls which makes your home a bit warmer. You can buy a **dehumidifier** to extract the moisture from the air. You could install an **automatic ventilation system** in your home. These are very effective in reducing condensation and are cheap to run, but of course they are not cheap to buy!



Wordfind

Find the words that are hidden in the box.

Dehumidifier

Damp

Ventilation

Dryer

Cold

Winter

Vent

Insulation

Flued

Condensation

D	E	H	U	M	I	D	I	F	I	E	R
R	T	H	W	E	R	A	N	I	S	A	M
Y	E	S	I	S	A	M	S	E	H	I	D
E	D	E	U	N	H	P	U	R	E	I	F
R	C	U	L	J	U	F	L	U	E	D	S
C	O	N	D	E	N	S	A	T	I	O	N
M	L	K	N	O	W	W	T	H	E	R	E
P	D	O	V	L	O	D	I	M	P	E	W
O	K	I	E	T	I	S	O	T	O	S	A
Y	G	O	N	O	W	I	N	T	E	R	O
V	E	N	T	I	L	A	T	I	O	N	U

NB These activities are aimed at elementary – low intermediate learners.