

METAL SHEDS - CONDENSATION

Metal sheds will only suffer from condensation where dampness is present in the foundations. The air inside the shed is always slightly warmer than outside and therefore, any moisture in the foundation base will rise until it touches the cold roof panels. This moisture then condenses, drips down and becomes part of the cycle again. This condensation cycle is difficult to stop, therefore, it is important to prevent dampness in the first instance. The following points about base construction are important and should be followed accurately.

- 1). The concrete or slab base should be only a few inches larger than the base rail size of the shed, e.g. a shed with base rail measurements of 93" x 70" should have a foundation measuring 96" x 73".
- 2). The foundation should contain a damp-proof membrane which should be inserted into the base at least 2" higher than the surrounding land area. This prevents water drainage from the immediate surrounding soil running onto the base surface.
- 3). The foundations of the shed should be allowed to 'cure' for at least 7 days after casting the concrete, longer if the atmosphere is damp. If this is not done, the water drying up from the concrete will provide ample moisture content to set up a condensation cycle.
- 4). After bolting down the shed to the concrete or slabs, apply mastic sealant to the inside of the shed base rails not the outside. This is to preserve the drainage capability of the channels whilst preventing water seepage under the rails and into the shed interior.

If the base is already constructed, and a problem of condensation is apparent, there are two methods of cure:

- A). Detach the shed from its base and construct a timber floor on raised bearers, dimensions to be a few inches larger than the base measurements of the shed. Fix the shed to the surface of the floor with wood screws and mastic seal the inside of the shed base rails. This will allow air flow under the new floor and thus keep the base area dry. This will eliminate the problem. Always ensure that water cannot collect under the floor as a pool of water would detract from the effectiveness of the ventilation.
- B). Clean off the underside of the roof panels with methylated spirits and ensure the panels are dry. Obtain the cheapest polystyrene tiles and adhere them to the underside of the roof using the specialist spray glue made by the 3M Company, product No. 77 spray can. This glue is made specifically for bonding polystyrene to metal and is not adversely affected by heat or cold. Both tiles and roof panel should be coated, after 1 - 2 minutes the surfaces should be bonded together. It is advisable to carry out this work on a warm dry day. This action does not remove the moisture from the atmosphere but; prevents it condensing due to its insulation properties.