

# **\*INDOOR AIR QUALITY\***

## **\*HUMIDITY AND AIR EXCHANGE\***

Better building practices along with improvements in the products used in new construction, have greatly reduced the energy required to heat and cool a newly constructed home or commercial building.

### **FOR EXAMPLE:**

- Windows
- Doors
- Moisture Resistant Building Wrap

We use Energy Star guidelines in our construction procedures, whether or not the project is certified, which also tightens up a structure.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS TO MAKE OUR PRODUCT MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT ALSO RESULT IN LESS NATURAL AIR EXCHANGES.**

### **CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

1. A newly constructed home or commercial building may have higher than normal humidity levels especially within the first year of construction.
2. It takes time for building materials, including the basement slab, to dry and find equilibrium.
3. Living conditions are also a contributing factor to moisture-related issues. It is important to make the customer aware of the problems created by adding excessive moisture to the home or commercial building.
  - a. Run bathroom fans during and after showering
  - b. Run range hood fans while cooking.
  - c. Ceiling fans can also be installed for additional air movement.
  - d. A dehumidifier can help reduce humidity levels in your home; however, it is important that you determine the correct size for your needs, as a dehumidifier that is too small will not be effective.

**SIGNS OF EXCESSIVE HUMIDITY:** Condensation on windows, doors, or pipes.

It is the customer's responsibility to control moisture levels. Be aware of the humidity levels in your home or commercial building, and take preventative measures to control it. These improved building methods and products may also create an adverse condition with your home or commercial building's indoor air quality. It is important for the end user, builder, and HVAC contractor to address indoor air quality issues in the planning stages of a new project so all options can be considered. Indoor air quality and humidity levels are an important aspect of keeping all building materials "stable" in regards to moisture, and the air inside your home or commercial building healthier.