

Condensation

When **water vapour** cools down, it condenses and turns into a **liquid**. You can often see **condensation** happening in the bathroom.

Condensation in the bathroom

Imagine that you have just had a hot bath or shower and you are looking in the bathroom mirror. Some of the hot water has evaporated. This **evaporation** means that there is a lot of water vapour in the air. The water vapour cools down when it hits the mirror and condenses to form little drops of water. These drops of water are also called condensation. You know that they are there when you can't see your face in the mirror.



The word 'condensation' has two meanings – it means water vapour changing into liquid water and it also means the tiny drops of water that form on windows or other cold surfaces.

There is water vapour in the air all the time. If you take a can of drink out of the fridge, you will see some condensation on the outside. Water vapour in the air cools down when it touches the cold can and it condenses to form drops of water.

There is a lot of water vapour in the air that you breathe out. The air you breathe out is warm because it has been inside your body. When you breathe it out on a cold day, the water vapour cools down and condenses.

Test yourself

1. Write down two meanings for the word 'condensation'.
2. Explain why you often see condensation in the bathroom.
3. Why do you see drops of water on the outside of a can of cold drink?
4. Why can you only see your breath on a cold day?

Remember

Gases change to **liquids** in the process called **condensation**.

Condensation happens when **water vapour** cools down.

The drops of water formed by condensation are also called condensation.