

# visibly better!

### The impact of good thermal insulation

Home insulation is more than a passing fad: it is an issue of major social importance. Coated glass, in both double and triple glazing, provides excellent levels of thermal insulation while letting in light and harnessing solar energy gains. Its ability to keep heat inside a building enhances your comfort while benefiting the environment. However, improved insulation can also cause condensation to form on the outer surface of the glass.

#### How does condensation form?

Condensation generally forms at night or at dawn when two specific conditions are met: a significant drop in external temperature combined with a high relative humidity. Under those conditions, the outer surface of a high-performance glazing can become colder than the external temperature. There are two reasons for this: the excellent insulating properties of the glass reduce outward heat loss, and the external environment (i.e. the sky) cools the outer surface of the glass. If the temperature of the outer surface of the glass drops below the dew point\*, then the moisture in the air forms tiny droplets of condensation on the glass.

The problem is exacerbated when the glazing is directly exposed to a very clear, cloudless sky. The risk of condensation can also be greater on sloped glazing.

# External condensation: an unwelcome phenomenon

Condensation obscures glass, making it difficult to see through. It can also cause glass to look dirty by highlighting traces of pollution, rain or detergents. External condensation is proof that a glazing unit is insulating effectively. The more we insulate our homes, the greater the problem of condensation.

#### **Preventing external condensation**

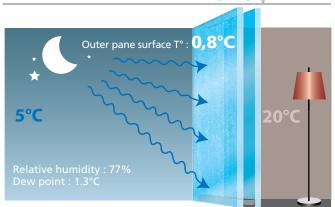
AGC offers a special coating\*\* which, when applied to the outer surface of the glass\*\*\*, provides protection from atmospheric radiation. It keeps the glass at a temperature just above the dew point, thus reducing condensation.

Fraunhofer-Institut für Bauphysik IBP, an independent laboratory, carried out a study to measure the effectiveness of a glazing with an anti-condensation coating compared to a glazing without the coating. The study found that condensation forms on the conventional glazing once the relative humidity reached 77%. On the other hand, the glazing with the anti-condensation coating delayed the onset of condensation until the relative humidity reached 97%.

- \* The dew point is the temperature below which the water vapour in a volume of air will condense into drops of water.
- \*\* Low-emissivity coating obtained by sputtering metal oxides onto clear float glass.
- \*\*\* This product is applied only to residential external glazings.

#### How does condensation form?

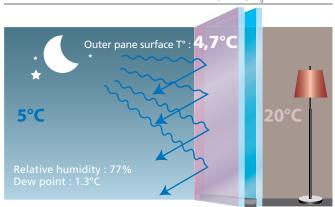
Double glazing  $U_a = 1.1 \text{ W/(m}^2.\text{K)}$ 



A highly insulating glazing combined with a very cold sky will cause the outer surface of the glazing to become relatively cold. Condensation forms when the temperature of the outer surface drops below the dew point (1.3 °C).

# How does Planibel Low-e Anti-Fog glazing work?

Double glazing  $U_a = 1.1 \text{ W/(m}^2.\text{K)}$ 



The metal oxide coating applied to the outer surface of the glass 'reflects the cold' back into the environment. As a result, the temperature of the outer surface of the glass (4.7 °C) remains above the dew point (1.3 °C), preventing the onset of condensation.

## **AGC: innovation and custom solutions**

AGC currently offers different products that meet the most demanding requirements:

- **Planibel AF:** glass with anti-condensation coating (in position 1).
- Planibel AF Top<sup>N+</sup> and AF iplus E (NEW): double-coated glass combining anti-condensation properties (anti-condensation coating in position 1) with thermal insulation (Top<sup>N+</sup> or iplus E in position 2).
- Planibel AF Energy<sup>N</sup> (NEW): double-coated glass combining three functions: anti-condensation, thermal insulation and solar control (thanks to the anti-condensation coating in position 1 and the Energy<sup>N</sup> coating in position 2).

All of these products are also available in laminated versions, providing enhanced safety and security as well as acoustic comfort.

### Significant benefits

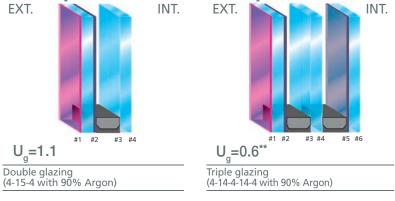
The anti-condensation coating is scratch-resistant, maintains its appearance over time, ensures a perfect transparency of the glass and can be readily processed in many different ways.

#### **Performance**

|  | EN 410 |       |       | EN 673                                 |
|--|--------|-------|-------|--|
|  | LT(%)  | LR(%) | SF(%) | U <sub>g</sub> (W/(m <sup>2</sup> .K)) |
| DOUBLE GLAZING   |        |       |       |  |
| 4 mm Planibel AF #1 - 15 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Top <sup>N+</sup> #3   | 74     | 17    | 57    | 1.1                                    |
| 4 mm Planibel AF Top <sup>N+</sup> (AF #1 / Top <sup>N+</sup> #2) - 15 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Clear  | 74     | 17    | 53    | 1.1                                    |
| 4 mm AF iplus E (AF #1 / iplus E #2) - 15 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Clear   | 75     | 16    | 55    | 1.1                                    |
| 4 mm Planibel AF Energy <sup>N</sup> (AF #1 / Energy <sup>N</sup> #2) - 15 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Clear  | 68     | 16    | 39    | 1.0                                    |
| TRIPLE GLAZING   |        |       |       |  |
| 4 mm Planibel AF Top $^{\rm N+}$ (AF #1 / Top $^{\rm N+}$ #2) - 14 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Clear - 14 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Top $^{\rm N+}$ #5     | 64     | 21    | 45    | 0.6                                    |
| 4 mm AF iplus E (AF #1 / iplus E #2) - 14 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Clear - 14 mm<br>Argon 90% - 4 mm iplus E #5  | 67     | 19    | 48    | 0.6                                    |
| 4 mm Planibel AF Energy $^{\rm N}$ (AF #1 / Energy $^{\rm N}$ #2) - 14 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Clear - 14 mm Argon 90% - 4 mm Planibel Top $^{\rm N+}$ #5 | 60     | 19    | 35    | 0.6                                    |

# **Assembly options**

#### PLANIBEL AF TOPN+



- Anti-condensation coating
  Top<sup>N+</sup> coating
- \*Can also be replaced by Stratobel AF Top $^{\rm N+}$  44.2 safety glazing (laminated version)
- \*\*Depending on the thickness of the spacers and the gas used inside them, the U<sub>g</sub> value can be reduced to 0.5 W/(m².K)

#### Important note:

External appearance: anti-condensation glazings have a metal oxide coating in position 1 (exterior-facing side) which means that they are slightly more reflective and tinted than normal glazing.

Cleaning: anti-condensation glazings have a coating in position 1 (exterior-facing side). A number of precautions must be taken when cleaning this coating. These are detailed in the "Cleaning and Maintenance Guide for Facade Glazing", available on www.yourglass.com/Products/Planibel LOW-E.





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