


## Bob Holcombe - Engineering Manager

### *Have you been fogging up the windows lately?*



Now that I've got your attention, let me explain. Occasionally I hear of someone who has complained of their motorhome windows fogging up. In very cold weather this can turn to

ice on the front windshield or any other single pane window. Double pane (insulated) side windows were an option on our motorhomes until they became a standard feature on 1998 model U270's and 1997 model U295/U320's. They were a nice improvement for both cold and hot weather operation, but there are still areas where condensation can be a concern.

If that moisture is frequently allowed to exist on the outer walls it can cause water damage to the wood paneling. The good news is that it is something you can avoid.

**I've never had this problem in my home!**

Probably everyone has seen a bathroom mirror fog up from the humidity of a hot shower. But I realized the other day that my mirror at home has never fogged up.

**Why?**

It's a *secret formula*, but I'll let you in on it.

The secret formula is this: Excessive humidity is multiplied by a small amount of space and that equals a humidity problem. In other words, my bathroom at home is a large room and it has a vaulted ceiling that is high above the mirror. *In a motorhome, there are times when there is simply more humidity than the amount of space can handle.* This condition causes it to collect on colder items such as mirrors, single pane windows, and vent fan domes.

Well don't fret, and for goodness sakes don't sweat... that just makes more humidity!

We all know what causes humidity: **During times when** lifestyles, weather, cooking, etc, raise the humidity to an unacceptable level in the small volume of a motorhome, we must take action.

**Oh dear, what can I do?**

The answer is very simple. First, a window or a vent dome opened a small amount will usually clear up the problem. Experiment to find what you like best. When taking a shower in a motorhome I find that if I just barely open the vent fan lid a little, the mirror won't even fog up! I open it as I step into the shower and close it just after I get out.

Some of our owners tell me they've learned these secrets! They sit in a campground and look out through fog-free windows at other motorhomes which have fogged up windows. They simply remove the inside cover from the kitchen vent fan. Sometimes they find a need to crack it open. At times they might also partially open the pilot and co-pilot windows about a half inch (that's about as wide as your finger).

**Unihomes:**

Some Unihome models have a built-in ducted fan that is helpful with ventilation. This fan is located above the windshield area in the front header. It can be used for *faster windshield defrosting as well as to help ventilate the overhead cabinets* that are located on both sides of the motorhome. While in use it pulls air from the overhead cabinets into a passage at the top of the walls that exists from one end of the motorhome to the other. By leaving a door open just a small amount, in the bedroom overhead cabinets, this fan can assist in ventilation. This fan is powered by your engine battery, so be sure to limit its use to times when you won't be draining your batteries. It is controlled by a switch on the dash.

**One more thing:**

There is a product on the market called ANTI-FOG by RAIN-X. It is for use on the inside of windows and on inside mirrors. I haven't used this on motorhome windows yet, but it works great on eyeglasses. If it works as well as RAIN-X does on the outside windshield, it would be well worth the effort to find some and apply it.

**Food for thought...**

You can go buy a de-humidifier. Spend that money. Then you can spend money to run it. It will probably be too large for a motorhome, and it will operate only on 110 volt electricity. Or, during times of high humidity you can simply crack a vent open and yes you will lose a little of the warm air you just heated, but it really is your best option.

**Is my motorhome built wrong?**

Of course not! You are only dealing with a law of nature. Humidity collects on any cold surface unless air is moving over it. Your motorhome is built very tight and well sealed. Please try some of these proven methods. The humidity level can be lowered by simply letting it **escape**.