WHAT CAUSES AIR CONDITIONER SWEATING & WHY?

Recent weather conditions and patterns play a big part in Air Conditioner sweating - If you take the recent dew point and actual temperatures in Brisbane as an example, the temperature has reached a top of 34.9C with a dew point of 26C. So, if you were to hold an object in the air that is 26C, that object would have condensation on it.

Unfortunately, these conditions have been consistent over the Summer - The last time this occurred was over 20 years ago in Brisbane.

High Humidity causes Air Conditioner sweating - when humid air in the home makes contact with the cold surface of the ducted air conditioner grilles. Sweating is likely to occur when the air temperature is below the dew point temperature.

The dew point temperature is the temperature at which water vapour will begin to form and turn into liquid. Simply put, if the surface of your air conditioner is below the dew point of the room, then moisture will begin to form.

In your roof space where it's much hotter the dew point temperature is also much more likely to occur.

If you are using your system correctly and regularly servicing the system then sweating should not be a problem, if it is we need to do some investigating.

CHECKLIST TO AVOID AIR CONDITIONINER SWEATING

- ✓ Are all of the windows and doors shut properly? (including the rooms you are not using) – One window is all it takes for your system to begin sucking in warm, humid outdoor air which will lead to sweating.

- ✓ Do you have a minimum of 2-3 zones On and open? – A/C systems are typically designed to cool up to 70% of your home at one time. So, if you have too many zones turned ON, your system will work overtime and not cycle off to allow the grilles to return to room temperature.

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- ✓ Is the unit set to a reasonable and achievable desired temperature for the day? – As a rule of thumb – setting your A/C temperature approx. 10C lower that the outside temperature is best practice. So, if it is 34C outside – then set you're A/C on no less than 24C - Doing so gives the unit time to cycle/turn OFF for a period allowing the grille temps to warm back up and prevent them from getting too cold which will lead to sweating – it also reduces energy consumption.

- ✓ Are the Filters Clean? – Your filters should be cleaned every 3 months and more regularly during summer months. Dirty filters mean a colder temperature at the grille and increased chance of you air conditioner sweating. Filters inside air conditioners catch dust particles to avoid you breathing it in. If not cleaned regularly, your filter can clog, causing it to collect moisture and eventually grow mould. Having a clean air conditioner filter allows your family to breath fresh air all year round.

- ✓ Has your ducted air conditioner been serviced – The indoor coils of your system might be blocked or dirty. Dirty cooling coils means the airflow is restricted, so you'll end up with colder temperature at the grille and again increasing the chance of sweating.

- ✓ Is your roof properly ventilated? - The cooler your roof space, the lower the dew point in your roof. This results in a lessened chance of air conditioner sweating occurring of the duct and other equipment in the ceiling. To correct this, whirly birds and eve vents should be installed to lessen the heat load in the ceiling space.

- ✓ Ensure that your Air Conditioning System is serviced by a qualified Air Conditioning Technician every 12 months.