

## DEHUMIDIFICATION

Excess humidity in the basement can lead to unhealthy conditions and problems of mold and rot.

While using a dehumidifier will reduce this problem, it consumes a lot of electricity.

Take these basic precautions before deciding if you need to use a dehumidifier. If it is necessary to use one, make sure to choose an Energy Star qualified equipment.

Reducing sources of moisture can reduce your need for dehumidification.

- Improve drainage around the home. Some ways to improve drainage are:
  - Extend downspouts from your gutters away from the foundation of the home
  - Keep gutters and downspouts clear and open
  - Slope the earth away from the foundation (for 5 feet at a minimum of 5% grade), to avoid pooling of water
  - Avoid over-watering of foundation plantings
  - Ensure that clothes dryers are properly vented to the outdoors. If using a clothesline, hang the clothes to dry outside rather than inside.
  - Use vent fans in bathrooms and kitchens to remove humidity at the source.
  - Repair leaking outdoor faucets.
- If the home uses central air conditioning, install an AC vent in the humid space to take advantage of the dehumidifying capabilities of the air conditioning unit. This will also help with air circulation.
- Repair leaking outdoor faucets, to save water and prevent humidity in the basement.
- Install a sill gasket for air sealing

Click [here](#) for more tips.