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## Mobile Bottled Gas Heaters and Condensation

### Introduction

1. Mobile gas heaters have been sold in the UK since the early 1970's and there are now some three million in UK households. Research shows a high level of satisfaction with their performance.
2. Mobile bottled gas heaters are fuelled by butane and are unflued.
3. Gas heaters, in the same way as any process of combustion, do produce carbon dioxide and some water vapour during the normal course of operation.
4. In a well ventilated room there is generally no problem with condensation.
5. If the heater is in a room with inadequate ventilation, moisture will be unable to escape and may therefore produce 'condensation' on cold damp surfaces.
6. From experience, if a room has not got a previous history of dampness, is reasonably well insulated, and has normal adequate ventilation, then the use of a mobile gas heater does not cause any unusual condensation problems.
7. If a room does have a temporary (as in water burst etc.) dampness problem, a mobile gas heater can provide an effective means of drying out the room, provided that there is more than the usual ventilation to allow the moisture to escape.
8. If a room has a previous history of dampness, a mobile gas heater will probably not be effective in drying it out. This is because the amount of ventilation required would be unacceptable to the occupants.
9. If the fabric of the room has a history of dampness the possibility of moisture entering from outside should first of all be eliminated. If dampness persists, then the room should be heated with a room sealed fire, i.e. a fire with a balanced flue which is fuelled with piped-in gas (propane or mains gas).

A balanced flue heater draws its air from the outside and expels the products of combustion to the outside. Air in the room is heated via a 'heat exchanger'. No extra ventilation is required for the heater, although adequate ventilation is still required for the occupants who all produce carbon dioxide and water vapour as they breathe.

NOTE: Radiant mobile heaters should not be used in hairdressing salons due to the large amount of aerosol sprays which are commonly used.

REFERENCE: Code of Practice No. 24, Part 1, gives more detailed information on the use of cylinders in residential premises.



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