FEBRUARY • MISSION 02

Building-science guidance for Central Illinois homes

Frost Watch

Winter window condensation and indoor moisture, caught before they move into walls and ceilings.

/ WHY THIS MONTH?

Mid-winter is when indoor moisture shows itself most clearly: fogged windows, damp corners, and musty smells.

/ THE HOMEOWNER'S MISSION

- Note window condensation on cold mornings, and where in the house it shows up first.
- Run the bathroom fan during showers and for 20 minutes after.
- If you have a humidifier, check the setting isn't cranked high.
- As a secondary check, glance for icicles or ice ridges along the eaves a sign heat is escaping into the attic.

/ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Persistent condensation on windows, especially overnight
- Musty smells in any room
- Ceiling stains that appear or grow after a thaw
- Ice buildup at roof edges (a secondary sign of heat escaping into the attic)

/ WHY IT MATTERS

Winter moisture in the wrong places damages paint, drywall, and insulation. Persistent window condensation usually means indoor humidity is running high or surfaces are running cold, and that moisture can migrate into walls.

/ WHEN TO CALL GREEN PLATOON

It makes sense to get real data when:

- Window condensation showing up throughout the whole house
- Ceiling stains that return after every thaw
- Recurring ice dams on the same roof edges

Thermal imaging and an attic evaluation can show where heat and moisture are escaping instead of guessing.

QUICK WIN

Flip the bathroom fan on for every shower this month and leave it running 20 minutes after. Cost: pennies of electricity.

Home Missions is educational guidance. Never attempt work involving fuel gas, combustion equipment, dangerous electrical conditions, roofs, or hazardous materials.

