HOME AND GARDEN

Manage moisture and air quality for a healthier home

Did you know that when we take steps to protect our homes from air leaks, we can open the door to other problems?

Air tightness without proper moisture management can eliminate moisture's escape path, trapping it within the home's walls, say specialists in this field. The hidden consequences of this moisture build-

up could include loss of thermal efficiency, along with potential mould and rot issues.

Damon Bennett, a wellknown home renovation expert and media personality, says, "As a renovator, I have to assess potential moisture issues inside and around a house before I start a renovation project. This helps me ensure that the home-

owner's investment is not lost to moisture damage after the work is completed."

In Canada where homes are heated in the winter and cooled in the summer, traditional polyethylene air and vapour retarders may actually lock moisture in the wall cavity - raising the risk of costly dampness and mould issues, structural damage, and health problems.

"No matter whether you're renovating your existing home or building a new one, insulation and vapour barriers are crucial aspects of the project," says Bennett. "I've been using CertainTeed's innovative MemBrain Continuous Air Barrier and Smart Vapour Retarder because it assures me d that

moisture will never be an issue. This type of insulation not only blocks moisture and air, it is designed to help wall cavities breathe and stay dry by allowing any dampness to escape. In the winter, it adapts to humidity levels to prevent vapour from entering the wall cavity, and in summer, it prevents moisture buildup."

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Page 6