

## Clean Marine

Logline Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012-01-14

As I write this, the temperature is below zero and snow is in the forecast. Most of us have electric heaters, and maybe a humidifier on board our boats to keep the plumbing from freezing and to keep condensation and mould from getting a hold. Not a problem as we need to protect our investments as well as the environment. But at what temperature should they be set? Condensation is formed when the air can no longer 'hold' the water vapour it contains. Warmer air holds more water vapour, so warm moist air coming in contact with cooler surfaces will cause condensation to form. So it is a combination of humidity and temperature drop that causes condensation. When the humidity is at 100%, any cooling can cause condensation, but usually the air is quite warm when the humidity is that high. At colder temperatures, the humidity is usually closer to 60% and the air need only be a few degrees above ambient 10 C is a good temperature to use. The dehumidifier will reduce the humidity of the air in your boat, and further reduce the need for additional heat. Your boat doesn't need to be toasty warm, so, keep your boat protected, but check the setting on that heater and see if you can use a little less energy, and save some money as well..