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## Surface Moisture and the Insulation System

When moisture is present on the surface of the insulation system, increases in surface leakage current result in lower overall insulation resistance and a dramatic reduction in the time to reach the overall insulation resistance level. Normally, the absorption current significantly influences the insulation resistance profile (IRP) by gradually changing during an insulation test. However, when surface moisture is present the surface leakage current dominates the absorption current making it almost negligible toward the total test current. See Figure 3 in the "*Insulation Resistance Profile (IRP) and Its Use for Assessing Insulation Systems*" article located at <http://www.pdma.com/PdMA-articles.php> for an example of an IRP of an insulation system when surface moisture is present.

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