

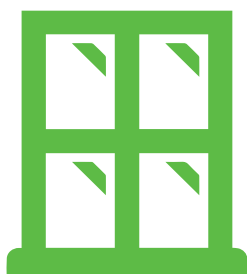
Buyer's guide

Choosing the best windows and glazing for your home



All properties lose heat through their windows. But energy-efficient glazing, and other energy-saving measures, keeps your home warmer and quieter as well as reducing your energy bills. That might mean double or triple glazing, secondary glazing, or just heavier curtains.

How much money will double glazing save?



Windows should have an energy rating. 'A+' is currently the highest rating and will save more energy.

Did you know?

18% of heat loss occurs through windows.

Across the UK, around 7% of households have no double glazing.

Heat is lost through single glazing around twice as fast as through standard double glazing.

By installing double glazing in an entirely single-glazed house you could save the following each year for a typical gas heated home:

Energy rating	Detached	Semi detached	Mid terrace	Bungalow	Mid-floor flat
A rated	£120-155	£80-110	£65-85	£55-75	£40-55
B rated	£110-140	£75-100	£60-80	£50-70	£35-55
C rated	£105-135	£75-95	£60-75	£50-65	£35-50

Other ways to reduce heat loss through windows:

Low cost options



Vents

If you have trickle vents on your windows you can open some of them in the winter to improve air circulation and reduce condensation, without losing too much heat.



Secondary glazing

A secondary pane of glass and frame can be fitted inside the existing window reveal. This won't be as well sealed as a double-glazing unit, but will be much cheaper to fit, and will still save energy.





Curtains


Well fitting curtains and blinds can reduce heat loss through a window if drawn at dusk. Keeping the curtains open during sunny days where the sun shines through makes best use of the warmth from the sun.


Common questions about glazing


 Q. Why do I need trickle vents in my new double glazing?

 A. All houses need a certain amount of ventilation to prevent the build-up of condensation, as well as removing unpleasant household odours. Badly fitting doors and windows do this in an uncontrolled way. Trickle vents allow you to control the amount of ventilation and reduce the potential loss of warm air. In some cases trickle vents may also be required to comply with building regulations.

 Q. I live in a conservation area. Can I fit double glazing?

 A. Conservation areas were established to preserve the external appearance of the area, so you may get permission to install new double glazed windows if they are similar in appearance to the original or neighbouring windows. Check with your local planning office before proceeding.

 Q. I live in a listed building. Can I fit double glazing?

 A. Listed building status is there to preserve the building techniques and materials as well as the appearance of a building, so it is unlikely that you will get permission to change the windows. Check with your local planning office to find out your options - secondary glazing and good blinds or curtains may be the best option.

Getting quotes for double glazing

The average cost for getting new glazing can vary depending on what work needs to be done. You should always get at least three quotes from installers.



You should also look for an installer that is registered through a Competent Person window registration scheme (FENSA, BSI, CERTASS Ltd or Network VEKA).



The Competent Person scheme means the installer will fit the windows in line with building regulations and send you a certificate.



If the windows are fitted by someone who is not registered to a Competent Person scheme you will need to notify your local Building Control before new windows are installed.