

Energy efficient windows - why it makes sense



Designed and produced by The Lines Group Ltd, Cheltenham www.linesgroup.co.uk

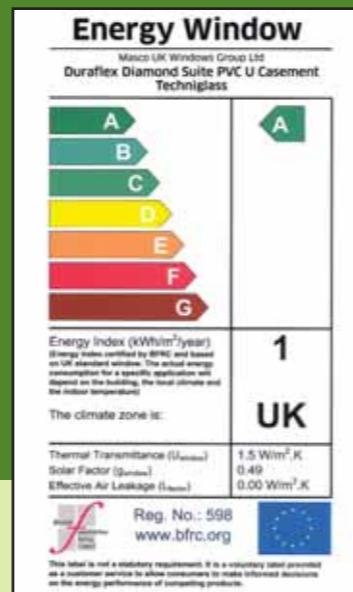


Energy efficient windows - the clear winner

With rising energy costs, fuel costs and living costs, the last thing you want to do is throw valuable money out of the window.

But that is exactly what you could be doing if your windows aren't energy efficient. Significant advancements have been made in recent years to ensure the windows you install in your home retain heat and reduce the amount of energy you use. With visible benefits for both the environment and your pocket, it's clear to see why energy efficient windows are important, so how do you choose the best ones for you?

The Duraflex process of continuous development means that all windows supplied meet, as a minimum, the requirements of current legislation. In addition, the Duraflex Diamond casement suite has been registered with BFRC which enables the supply of A, B and C rated windows if required.



“Attractive, durable and weather-resistant windows complement your home and are kind to the environment.”

BFRC - What's it all about?

The Government has set itself a specific target of ensuring all new homes built after 2016 are zero carbon. This is in addition to the general requirement of an overall carbon emission reduction as set out by the Kyoto agreement.

To highlight this topic and enable a system which is both an independent source of information and also easy to understand, the BFRC (British Fenestration Rating Council) working in conjunction with the Energy Efficiency Council, have created a performance label (sample shown left) clearly defining the energy efficiency of windows from any manufacturer.

Launched in March 2004, the Window Energy Rating label is similar to that used on many white goods in our

homes, such as fridges and washing machines. Windows are scored on a scale of A - G, with an A rated building product being more energy efficient than one which is G rated. This allows individuals to quickly and easily choose the windows most suitable for their needs.

In an ideal world, A rated windows would be installed in each home in the UK. However, recognising that a balance needs to be made between the availability and cost-effectiveness of such products, those which are given a rating of C and higher are recognised as energy efficient, and can officially be endorsed with the Energy Saving Recommended logo.



Take the environmental choice and breath easy



Selecting a manufacturer - what to look for

With so much choice in the marketplace, it's hard to know where to start. If you want your windows to have a positive impact on the environment, choosing a reputable installer is a good place to start. Individual workmanship can affect the benefits of installing energy efficient windows; choose a company with the credibility and expertise to guarantee a first-class installation.

Our energy efficient windows are produced using the award winning BBA and BFRC approved Duraflex profile systems to give you complete peace of mind.

Our impact on the environment is something we take very seriously. We have taken significant steps to reduce both our energy usage and the amount of waste generated during our manufacturing process, whilst increasing the amount that we re-cycle.

This resulted in Duraflex achieving the ISO 14001 Environment Management System and also being awarded the Regional Business of the Year Award in recognition of the strides forward that have been made environmentally.



When choosing energy efficient windows, here are a few points to consider;

- Minimum C rated under the BFRC Windows Energy Rating guidelines.
- Energy Saving Recommended logo.
- Reputable fabricators.
- Expertise in design.

What does this mean for the environment?

The Window Energy Rating Scheme, governed by an independent body, allows you to make a fully informed choice about the windows you choose for your home. From an environmental perspective, the windows you choose can reduce your household CO₂ emissions

by over 100m each year, helping you significantly lower your carbon footprint. Not only does this have a positive effect on the world outside, but also for the environment inside your house. The advancements in building product technology increase the amount of useable living space by eliminating drafts and cold spots.





Pilkington energy efficient glazing

What does this mean for your pocket?

Energy efficient windows may cost more initially, but will improve comfort and save both energy and money. During the lifetime of your energy efficient windows, the cost of heating could outweigh the purchase cost by thousands of pounds. With up to 20% of a homes heat being lost through inefficient windows and doors, the savings you make could add up to more than £150.00 per year.

Take into consideration the increased use of space in your home and reduced lighting costs, and the benefits of choosing energy efficient

windows becomes clear to see. From late 2007, any home for sale will be given an environmental rating and will be sold with an Energy Performance Certificate.

Simply changing your standard windows and doors to those which are energy efficient will have a lasting and positive effect for the lifetime of your home. It's a small step which we all can take to ensure a better life now and in the future.



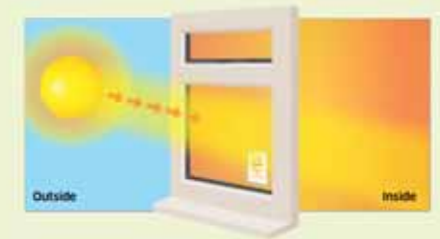
Pilkington energy efficient glazing reduces the amount of heat loss through windows and it also allows more heat (energy) from the sun in through the window - this effect is known as solar gain. As solar gain is heat from the sun, it's 'free of charge' and available all year round.



PILKINGTON

Special types of glass:-

- Pilkington K Glass™, the UK's best selling low emissivity glass which stops heat escaping from homes.
- Pilkington Optiwhite™ is a special 'extra-clear' type of glass. It increases the degree of solar heat gain and makes home feel warmer without the need to turn up heating.
- Filling the double glazed unit with argon gas or using air filling with a new "warm edge spacer bar" stops further heat escaping from homes.



Stage 1. The sun radiates useful heat which is attracted to the outer pane. This passes through the unit into the building.



Stage 2. With heat now in the building, the inner pane of Pilkington K Glass™ acts to prevent energy loss back out of the window unit.



Stage 3. With greater heat absorption from outside and minimal heat loss internally, less power is needed to keep your home warm and reduced your energy bills.