

Windows In Your Home

Windows are critical to the overall energy efficiency of a home - as much as 40% of the heat lost from a home is lost from windows and up to 50% of unwanted heat gain is through the windows. Poorly positioned or unprotected windows could cost the average home over \$500 extra in heating and cooling bills each year.

Preventing Winter Heat Loss

Unprotected, single panes of glass lose almost ten times more heat than the same area of insulated wall. Appropriate window selection and protection can reduce heat loss through windows by up to 70% and save you around \$200 each year in reduced heat.

There are a number of ways this can be achieved:

- Double glazed windows
- Low-E glass (low emissivity glass)
- Curtains and blinds
- Insulated shutters

Preventing Summer Heat Gain

It is better to stop the sun's heat from reaching the glass rather than dealing with the problem once the heat has entered your home. So in summer, external shading is much more effective at keeping your home cool than internal blinds or curtains.

North Facing Windows

These windows require a shading device that can block summer sun without reducing the amount of sun entering the house in winter. A number of suitable shading options are outlined below.

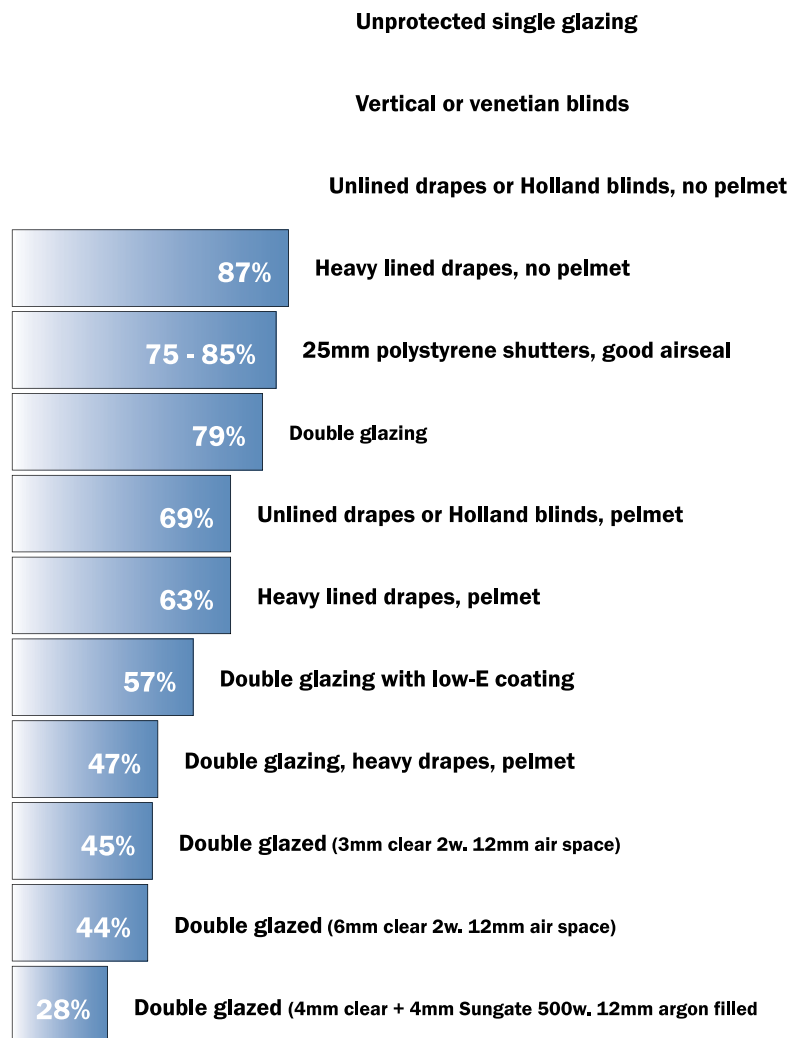
- Removable or adjustable external awnings and shutters
- Eaves and pergolas
- Shade battens on pergolas
- Deciduous trees and vines

Wide verandahs are not recommended over north facing windows. Although they are effective in keeping out the summer sun, they generally don't allow adequate winter sun to enter the home.

East And West Facing Windows

These windows should be well shaded from the morning and afternoon summer sun:

- Awnings, external blinds and shutters that cover the entire face of the window are most suitable.
- Landscaping and vegetation, particularly deciduous trees, shrubs and vines can provide excellent shade in summer, without obstructing the winter sun.



Comparison of heat loss through different window treatments in winter
 % show comparison of heat loss