

WINDOW BUYING GUIDE



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**DROYLSDEN
GLASS**

Windows & Conservatories

*Established
1982*





Window Buying Guide

Buying new windows is a great idea, if only to update your home's appearance. However, the way they perform has improved so much over the years that they're certain to make your home a more comfortable place to be in as well. We've been fitting new windows for over 37 years and have packed those years of experience into this compact guide. We hope that it provides you with all the information you need when buying new windows from Droylsden Glass.

WHAT WINDOW MATERIALS ARE THERE TO CHOOSE FROM?

Here at Droylsden Glass, we use two distinctive but equally excellent materials for our windows – uPVC and aluminium. Both differ in a number of ways so we've provided some information about both materials below. This way, you can determine which one best suits your needs.

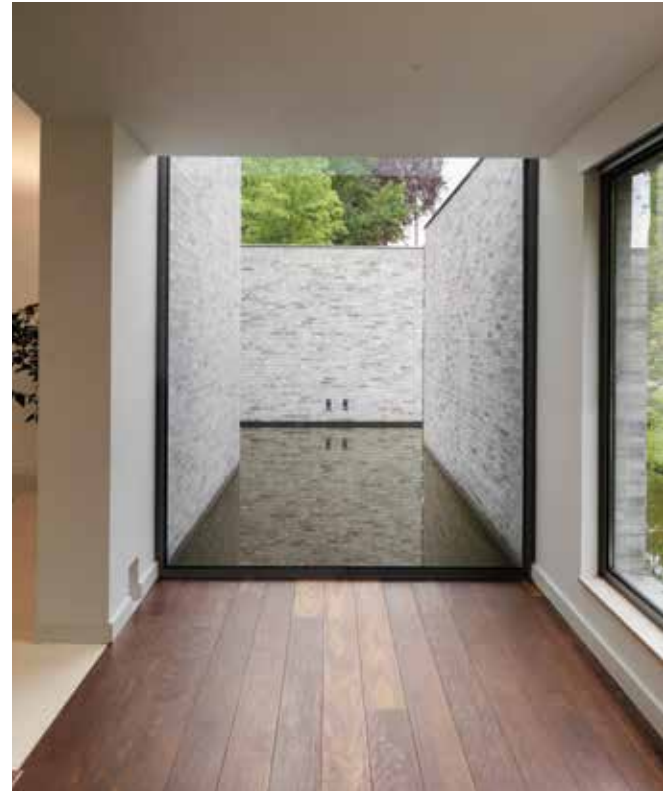


uPVC Windows

uPVC is a strong insulator and uPVC windows are fitted with multiple chambers, the purpose of which is to trap heat. The result of these two factors are windows that can insulate the home incredibly well. A selection of our uPVC windows can achieve Window Energy Ratings (WER) – more on these later - of A+ when in the right configuration.

Lending itself to a variety of window designs, uPVC is also durable and very easy to clean, so you can enjoy long lasting windows with minimal upkeep.

uPVC offers exceptional bang for the buck. uPVC windows tend to cost less than aluminium ones but this is a reflection of manufacturing costs, not a lack of quality.



Aluminium Windows

Aluminium has one of the best strength to weight ratios of any material. For this reason, aluminium windows can be manufactured with slimmer framing. Less framing means more glass so additional light can make its way inside your home.

Although aluminium is not a good insulator of heat, modern aluminium windows are fitted with polyamide thermal breaks. This ensures their thermal efficiency is dramatically improved. Our aluminium windows can achieve U-values of 1.0 W/m²k.

Aluminium has an anti-corrosive layer, ensuring it resists corrosion and rust fantastically well. This ensures they are super-durable and like uPVC windows, they can also be kept clean with the minimum of fuss.

WHAT ABOUT WINDOW STYLES?

The window's style has a direct effect on how the window looks and performs. It's important that the window is the right fit for your home, therefore, the window style is something you should consider carefully.



Casement Windows

In terms of versatility, casement windows do take some beating. The only requirement to be classed as a casement window is that the window must open outwards. Ours are constructed from high-quality Deceuninck uPVC profiles and we can hang them from either the top, bottom or side.

Product Features:

- Able to achieve Window Energy Ratings (WER) of 'A' for a more energy efficient home
- Choice of chamfered or sculptured frames
- Fitted with Maco MkII Shootbolt locks and other leading security hardware

Flush Sash Windows

Also known as flush casement windows, their sashes do not protrude out past the window frame, creating a 'flush' exterior. Ours have been constructed from uPVC, however, they look just like traditional timber windows and even feature smooth corner welds.

Product Features:

- Graf weld smooth corner joints for a flat, stylish exterior
- Available with tear drop, monkey tail and contemporary handles, plus traditional peg stays
- Window Energy Ratings (WER) of 'A+' achievable



Tilt & Turn Windows

Tilt and turn windows are known as such because of the way they are operated. They can be tilted inwards to allow air into the home without compromising on safety. Also, they can be fully opened inwards so they can be cleaned from inside. A practical solution for blocks of flats and other high-up locations, they are commonly used in mainland Europe.

Product Features:

- Tested to Secured by Design (SBD) security standards
- Choice of chamfered or sculptured frames
- Can achieve Window Energy Ratings (WER) of 'A'

WHAT ABOUT WINDOW STYLES?



Vertical Sliding Sash Windows

You may have heard vertical sliding sash windows referred to as sliding sash windows or box sash windows. A classic window design, they feature two sliding sashes that sit on top of one another, hence the name. They're an excellent fit for Victorian and other period properties, and can be fitted in multiple layouts, including square bay, angled bay and bow.

Product Features:

- Top and bottom sashes can be tilted inwards for ease of cleaning
- Run through sash horns and deep bottom rail for an authentic sash window appearance
- Tested to Secured by Design (SBD) security standards

Residence 9 Windows

A high-performance uPVC alternative to traditional wooden windows, Residence 9 windows feature a clean, flush exterior. Ideal for period homes and regularly approved for use in conservation areas, they can be adapted to suit more modern properties too. Their profiles are fitted with 9 chambers, allowing them to achieve a Window Energy Rating (WER) of A+.

Product Features:

- Unique, 9 chambered profiles to maximise thermal performance
- Manufactured with strict adherence to 19th century timber window designs
- Available with tear drop & monkey tail handles, and traditional peg stays



Shaped Windows

In addition to the standard window options, we also offer a selection of unique shaped windows. This includes bullseye windows, which are small, round windows, arched windows, which feature a curved frame for a softer appearance, and piked windows, which are essentially casement windows with a pointed top.

Regardless of the required shape, they are fitted with high-performance glazing to maximise energy efficiency. Unless the windows are fixed, we also fit them with a variety of security hardware so your home's security is not compromised.

WHAT ABOUT WINDOW STYLES?

Secondary Glazing

Secondary glazing is an excellent way to keep more heat inside the home and reduce the amount of external noise coming in. It works by fitting a single paned window onto the interior part of an existing window. It's also suitable for a variety of window styles and shapes. As secondary glazing is usually removable and does not affect the exterior appearance of your windows, it very rarely requires planning permission too.



Acoustic Glazing

As you might have gathered from the name, acoustic glazing is specifically used to lower sound levels in the home. It's created by laminating two layers of annealed glass which have a layer of Polyvinyl Butyral, a sound absorbing plastic, between them. Due to the thickness of the glass and the Polyvinyl Butyral layer, our acoustic glazing can reduce the level of outside noise by up to more than 50db. We recommend it to anyone who lives near a busy road or who struggles with excessive outside noise.



DO I WANT DOUBLE OR TRIPLE GLAZED WINDOWS?

Most new windows are supplied double glazed, however, many are available with triple glazing instead. For most homeowners, double glazing will keep in enough heat and keep out enough sound for you to live comfortably. However, if outside noise in your neighbourhood is particularly bothersome, perhaps because of a busy road, you could opt for triple glazing instead. Triple glazed windows, generally, keep more heat inside the home too.



THE IMPORTANCE OF THERMAL EFFICIENCY FOR WINDOWS

Quite simply, the more thermally efficient your windows are, the more heat they'll keep inside your home. If your house is able to retain more heat, the less you have to spend heating it. This also means that you consume less energy, which has the knock-on effect of reducing your carbon footprint. So, energy efficient homes are actually better for the environment too.



HOW IS THERMAL EFFICIENCY MEASURED?

There are two main units used to measure the thermal performance for windows: Window Energy Ratings and U-values.

Window Energy Ratings (WER)

This system is employed by the British Fenestration Rating Council, who independently test products to verify their thermal performance. Products with a Window Energy Rating (WER) from them carry a 'rainbow' label. The rating system they use goes from E to A++, with E being the least efficient and A++ being the most.

U-values

U-values work a bit differently to Window Energy Ratings (WER). Specifically, they calculate the rate of heat transmittance through a structure. This is calculated using the equation W/m^2k , which measures heat loss in watts (W) per square metre of material, when the temperature (k) outside is at least one degree lower. The lower the U value, the better the insulation the material provides. If a material has a U value of 0, no heat is able to escape



WHAT CUSTOMISATION OPTIONS ARE THERE FOR WINDOWS?

Lots! In addition to the style and size of the window, you can customise the glass, the window furniture and the colour. For some windows, you can also customise the style of framing.



▲ Glass

Glass technology has advanced considerably over the years. As a result, the windows of today are available with a variety of glass options to meet an increasing variety of consumer demands. Popular glass options includes:

- **Self-cleaning glass** - This features a special coating that breaks down dirt as it lands on the surface of the glass.
- **Toughened glass** – true to its name, toughened glass is considerably more difficult to break than standard glass, providing an extra boost to window security.
- **Laminated glass** – this is a form of safety glass that holds together when shattered.
- **Acoustic glass** – also known as sound reduction glass, acoustic glass works by reducing the amount of outside noise that is able to enter the home.
- **Low-emissivity glass** – low-emissivity or low-e glass features a special coating that reflects heat back into the home, improving a property's thermal performance.

▼ Furniture

The window furniture can really enhance a particular aesthetic. Monkey tail and pear drop handles, for example, are both excellent for recreating a period look. For more contemporary homes, standard espag handles will be more than suffice.

If sticking with a traditional aesthetic, however, you might also consider a peg window stay. These are small metal bars that are fitted onto a window to hold it in a specific position.



WHAT CUSTOMISATION OPTIONS ARE THERE FOR WINDOWS?



Colour/Finish

The colour of a window has an important effect on how it fits in with the colour/design scheme of a property. The good thing is that so many different options are available, so you're certain to find something suitable.

Our uPVC windows come in 30 different colourways, including Chartwell Green, Cream and White, all of which are highly popular choices. Some of these finishes are smooth but we also have a selection of woodgrain foils available. These give uPVC frames the textured appearance of real timber, so you can make them look just like traditional timber windows.

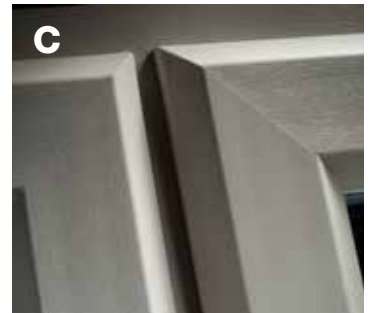
Aluminium windows are available in any RAL colour, which means we can apply virtually any colour to their frames, from the deepest reds to the brightest yellows. Therefore, it's easy to give them a unique look.

You can also choose to have a different colour for the inside and outside parts of your window frames. This means you can match your property's interior and exterior respectively.



S SCULPTURED
Sash Frame

C CHAMFERED
Sash Frame



F FLUSH
Sash Frame

Framing

There are three different types of window framing available: chamfered, sculptured and flush. Each can fit nicely upon any home, however, chamfered frames feature a flatter, more streamlined profile. Sculptured frames, on the other hand, are more curved in appearance. They're often used on cottages and period properties. Flush frames sit flat with the window sashes, giving a simple but classic timber window appearance. They're often used in period properties but are becoming an increasingly popular choice for newer homes too.

WHAT SECURITY FEATURES ARE WINDOWS FITTED WITH?

As a potential entry-point to your home, especially if they're left open, security is an important consideration when looking for new windows. We've listed some of the common security hardware that we use below.



▲ Multi-point locks

Multi-point locks work by securing the window at multiple points in the frame. As they are secured in various places, it is more difficult for an intruder to force the window open by putting pressure on specific parts of the window.



▲ Internal beading

Beading is a strip of material that sits on the edge of a window pane, to hold the glass in place. Internal beading is housed behind the glass, although external beading which sits in front of it is also available on some windows. The benefit of having the beading internally is that a potential intruder would have to smash the glass to gain access to it, which creates noise and might trigger an alarm.



▲ SAC Bolt & Keep

SAC stands for security and compression, and SAC bolt and keeps help the window to return to the same position every time. They also help to provide an airtight seal, which is essential for preventing draughts from getting into the home. What's more, the greater the force being applied to the window, the more resistance they offer. So, if someone is trying to force entry, they help to keep them locked out.



▲ Hinge guards

Window hinge guards provide an effective defence against attempts to force the window off its hinges using a jemmy bar or similar type of tool. They utilise interlocking claw grips that tighten their grip on one another as more force is applied to the window.



▲ Glass clamps

Glass clamps secure the glazing into place, making it very difficult to remove the window glass from the outside.

Secured by Design



Official Police Security Initiative

▲ Secured by Design

This is a form of accreditation that is given out by the UK police to symbolise products that are highly secure. Along with windows it's also granted to doors and other products. A variety of our windows have been tested to this standard.

HOW LONG ARE WINDOWS GUARANTEED FOR?

Here at Droylsden Glass, our windows are guaranteed for 10 years and this covers most of their components. However, certain forms of ironmongery do not fall under this guarantee. Our guarantees are also insurance backed, which basically means that, in the event that we cease trading or go into liquidation, you will still have cover.

HOW TO PAY FOR NEW WINDOWS

By card, cash, cheque or bank transfer, however you pay for your new windows is up to you. Although, if you'd prefer not to pay the whole amount in one lump sum, we also offer a selection of finance options that you can take advantage of.

Finance options available from us

- Up to 5 years interest-free credit
- Buy now pay 12 months later*

Finance is subject to application and status. If you have a poor credit history, however, finance might not be available to you.



UP TO

5 YEARS
INTEREST
FREE
CREDIT*

**BUY NOW
PAY LATER***





FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Before buying new windows, it's important you feel wholly confident in your purchase. So, if there's anything you feel uncertain about or if you'd like some additional information, please feel free to get in touch with us. We're not happy until you are and we'll be absolutely delighted to answer any enquiries and provide window advice. We are available to call on **0161 292 1122** or you can email us at info@droylsdenglass.co.uk.

Visit our Showroom

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