

## **Waving goodbye to EMI**

All electronic devices emit electromagnetic radiation. It is what wireless computer networks and mobile phone towers use to send data. It is extremely effective, but there are undesirable effects of transmitting information this way. Data transmitted on an internal wireless network can be accessed from outside the building, and mobile phone towers can emit high levels of this invisible radiation.

Electromagnetic interference or EMI is the disruption of electromagnetic radiation.

Moderate or high-powered wireless transmitters are key causes of EMI. People living near radio or television transmitters or in a large city have reported disruptions to cordless telephones, home entertainment systems, computers and even medical devices.

An apartment owner in one of Melbourne's premier boulevards was concerned by possible EMI problems from mobile phone repeaters on top of neighbouring buildings. Impressive floor to ceiling windows and doors inside his apartment left it vulnerable to electromagnetic radiation.

"As a precautionary measure, I wanted to shield my apartment from EMI exposure and after researching the issue discovered that certain window films offer this protection. Initially, I had the apartment professionally tested for EMI levels. While the readings were well below the maximums set by Australian Standards, I decided to install window film to the areas with the highest readings, just to be safe," he said.

Melbourne-based window film experts at The Tint Shop were chosen to install the window film.

The Tint Shop Manager, Damien Fattore, comments, "We installed 36m<sup>2</sup> of film to nine master bedroom windows and one lounge window. This install demonstrates why an experienced professional should always apply film. It demanded precision to ensure the film covered the entire glass surface."

Silicone seals were removed from each window frame, and the film fitted to the edge of the glass. A glazier reinstalled the silicone seals once the window film had been applied. Maximum coverage of glass was achieved, plus the silicone sealed the film onto the glass to help prevent corroding.

Damien continues, "One of the benefits of window film is that it can be retrofitted, the job finished quickly and easily with minimal inconvenience to the tenant. It took two installers four hours to complete this job.

"The film we installed is almost clear, so it does not impede the view at all, plus it offers 55% heat reduction. In effect, we solved a variety of problems with the one product. The client did not even realise such a product existed and was extremely happy with the end result."

A number of different window films are available in Australia to help control EMI by shielding glass from electromagnetic radiation.

Rob Hamilton, President of the Window Film Association of Australia and New Zealand (WFAANZ), comments, "These films act as a barrier as a transparent metal layer blocking the wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation. Films with a high metal content give the best shielding values. The metal type also influences shielding properties, with more conductive metals showing better electromagnetic attenuation. Those interested in this sort of window film should choose a WFAANZ distributor member product as they come with a minimum seven-year warranty, and some residential applications are supported by a lifetime warranty."

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Another application for these films is information security.

Rob comments, "The radiation transmitted by electrical equipment like computers and phones can be intercepted and decoded by high-tech criminals. Window films have been used in government and business offices around the world to protect their information and prevent electronic espionage."

WFAANZ comprises distributor members and installer members like The Tint Shop. WFAANZ installer members have access to the latest industry developments and abide by a strict code of practice.

#### **About window film**

Window film, formerly known as window tint, has come a long way since its introduction in 1961. Advanced technologies mean window films now offer greater variety of shades, colours and performance levels; the best products are guaranteed to survive the harsh Australian climate with scratch resistant coatings for protection and metallic layers for colour stability.

#### **About WFAANZ**

A non-profit organisation, WFAANZ is dedicated to improving the standard of product and installation of window film in Australia while promoting its performance, value and cost effectiveness. The association sets out performance guidelines for its members and is a reliable voice for window film manufacturers, suppliers and applicators at all regulatory levels. Visit [www.wfaanz.org.au](http://www.wfaanz.org.au) for more information and a list of members.

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