



Ask an expert

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» Ask an expert » Changing normal glass to Low-E



Changing normal glass to Low-E

Category: Windows

Question:

Hi, I was just wondering whether it is possible to change existing new glass windows to conform to Low E without replacing the glass?? Thanks Chris

Question by Chris

Answers

Hi Chris,

There is a way to improve existing glass so that it performs like a Low-E unit - solar control window film. By rejecting the sun's heat your rooms stay cooler in summer, and by reflecting heat back into the room they are warmer in winter. Up to 80% total solar energy, 99% UV radiation and 90% glare can be blocked by window film.

Many people have the misconception that film = darker windows. This is not the case. Films with low reflectivity ensure your internal and external views are not compromised. If privacy is an issue, you can select a film with a denser tint. The different uses of each room should be considered when selecting the right film. For example, solar control/safety films are available that hold the glass together in the event of an accident, very popular in children's bedrooms, play rooms and high traffic areas.

Film is retrofit to the interior side of the window, so the glass does not need to be removed or replaced. For a fraction of the cost of new Low-E windows, you will receive comparable results in terms of energy efficiency.

For the best advice, the Window Film Association of Australia and New Zealand (WFAANZ) recommends you consult one of our installer members. To find an installer near you, go to www.wfaanz.org.au/AUMemberSearch.htm. Hit 'Consumer' on the home page to learn more about window film and energy.

The WERS For Film program launched recently in Australia to help home owners select the right installer and the right film. WERS is the Window Energy Rating Scheme, which independently tests each film and gives it a heating and cooling star rating, like the star system used to rate whitegoods. Endorsed by the government, this is a sure fire way to choose the film best suited to your needs. For more information please visit www.wfaanz.org.au/WERS.

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