

Industry Terminology

Air Chambers

Small honeycomb spaces within the sash and frame that help insulate and strengthen the window.

Air Infiltration

The amount of air passing between a window sash and frame. Measured in cubic feet or air per minute, per square foot of area. The lower the number, the less air that can pass through.

Argon Gas

A colourless and odourless gas filling the airspace between panes of insulating glass. The addition of argon gas minimizes heat transfer and greatly increases the thermal performance of a window.

Brickmould

Visible on the outside of windows or doors to enhance the exterior appearance. It attaches to the frame and makes the window appear larger. It also covers the gap between your home's exterior (siding or brick) and the window frame.

Condensation

Occurs when the surface temperature of the glass (glazing), sash, or window frame is lower than that of the humid air around it. The humid air turns to water on contact with these cold surfaces, creating condensation.

Dual Pane (Double-Pane)

Refers to the glass configuration in a window. It is made from two pieces of glass with a sealed air space between them for better insulation.

Emissivity

Measures how efficiently surfaces emit thermal energy. Emissivity factors range from 0.00 to 1.00 and are typically measured in a U-Value (or its inverse, R-value). The lower the emissivity, the less heat emitted through a window system.

ENERGY STAR® Approved

The trusted symbol for energy efficiency. Prestige manufactures products that carry the ENERGY STAR® to help you save money and protect the environment.

ER-Rating

A window's energy rating (ER) is calculated by measuring solar heat gain, heat loss through frames and glass, and air leakage. Shown as a positive or negative in watts per square metre: a positive number indicates net heat gain and reduced heating costs, while a negative represents wasted energy through heat loss and air infiltration. (i.e. a home's heating system must work harder in colder weather).

ER-numbers range widely depending on window type and design. Fixed windows tend to score better ER-ratings than operating windows. Operating windows and sliding doors typically have negative ER-numbers, ranging from -30 (indicating weaker energy performance) to -5. Fixed windows can be designed to have positive numbers ranging from -20 to +10.

PRESTIGE
WINDOWS AND DOORS

Fusion-welded

The process of joining materials by melting them together with extreme heat (over 260°C), causing them to fuse into a one-piece unit.

Grilles

Decorative bars placed on the surface or between panes of glass. Windows can be customized by using different grille patterns which are available in different colours and width profiles.

Jamb

The interior side components of the window frame referred to as the jamb, or jamb extension.

Passive Solar Heat Gain

Solar heat that passes through a material and is captured naturally, not by mechanical means.

R-Value

Measures the resistance of heat transfer through the glass. The higher the R-Value, the better the window insulates.

Relative Heat Gain

Describes how much energy penetrates through windows via solar radiation. The lower the relative heat gain value, the more efficient the glass is in restricting heat gain.

Shading Coefficient

Measures the ratio of solar heat gain through a window system in relation to 1/8 inch clear glass.

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient

Measures the ratio of solar heat gain through a window system in relation to an unobstructed opening.

Tempered Glass

A form of safety glass which breaks into pebbles instead of shards when broken. It has a surface compression of no less than 10,000 psi, or an edge compression of no less than 9,700 psi.

Tri-pane

Features 3 panes of glass, each spaced about 1/2 inch apart, providing even more insulation power than dual pane windows. Tri-pane also has excellent sound barrier characteristics, providing extra privacy and energy efficiency.

U-Value

Measures the rate of non-solar heat flow through a material. The lower the U-Value, the greater a window's resistance to heat flow and the better its insulating value.

Ultraviolet Light (UV)

Invisible rays of solar radiation at the short-wavelength end of the spectrum. UV rays can cause fading of paint finishes, carpets and fabrics, and deterioration of some materials.

Visible Light Temperature

Percentage or fraction of the visible light spectrum transmitted through a window or skylight that's reduced by the sash material and reluctance of the glass.

Weather-stripping

Material used to form a weather-resistant seal around operable sash.