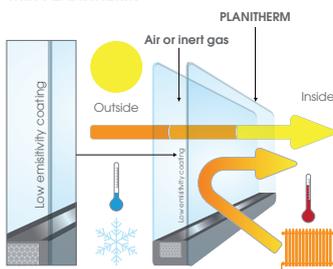


FAQs

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1. What is PLANITHERM?

Double glazed unit with PLANITHERM



PLANITHERM is a new generation of energy saving window glass, used in double and triple glazed windows. PLANITHERM is manufactured using an advanced coating to capture free energy from natural daylight and to retain more heat within the home. That means lower heating bills* compared to standard windows, but for about the same cost.

Using the latest technology, PLANITHERM has a unique combination of microscopic metallic layers, which reflect heat back into a room, to keep heat within a building. At the same time, the glass maximises the amount of natural light coming in. As more heat is retained, it means less energy is required to warm up the home to the desired ambient temperature, in turn lowering total energy consumption.

2. I have double glazing; does this mean my windows are energy efficient?

All old double glazed windows, using uncoated glass, (pre 2002) offer a limited level of heat retention and are more energy efficient than single glazed windows.

However, Building Regulations now state that an energy efficient window glass must be used in all domestic replacement windows, achieving a minimum Window Energy Rating of C. A double glazed unit containing PLANITHERM is on average 40% more thermally efficient than double glazing with uncoated glass.

3. Why should I have PLANITHERM installed in my windows?

There are a number of reasons why you should have PLANITHERM installed in your windows. Firstly, Building Regulations require us to use energy efficient products that help to reduce CO₂ emissions and protect the environment. PLANITHERM is the most energy efficient window glass available. Using PLANITHERM is an easy and efficient way of complying with Building Regulations whilst offering a number of other benefits:



Free Solar Gain - PLANITHERM uses advanced coating technology to capture free energy from natural daylight to help heat the home



Thermal Insulation - The advanced coating reflects heat back into the room, meaning less energy is needed to heat the home to the desired temperature



Optimal Window Energy Ratings - PLANITHERM combines with virtually any window frame to achieve a Window Energy Rating (WER) of C, which achieves compliance with Building Regulations Part L. In most cases, a window with PLANITHERM glass will achieve the highest WERs of A or A+



Haze & Tint Free Windows - PLANITHERM maximises the amount of natural light into the home, without the haze or tint effects associated with older double glazed windows



Eliminate Condensation - PLANITHERM helps to virtually eliminate internal condensation, reducing draughts and cold spots in and around the windows

4. Is the coating on the glass permanent?

Yes, the coating is permanent, invisible and hermetically sealed within the glass unit so will last the lifetime of the window.

5. Where can I buy windows containing PLANITHERM?

Look for a member of the PLANITHERM Installer Network. There are over 800 nationwide and you can find them listed at www.planitherm.com under 'Find an Installer.' Simply search using your postcode to view a full list of Installers in your local area.

6. If PLANITHERM lets the sun in, does it let anything out?

The glass has a very thin, transparent metallic coating that reflects heat back into the room, rather than allowing it to escape through the windows. At the same time it allows heat from the sun to pass through the glass to warm the room, meaning it takes less energy to maintain a warm, comfortable home.

7. Is the performance of PLANITHERM proven?

Yes, the performance of PLANITHERM meets the requirements of class C of European standard BS EN 1096 and carries the relevant CE Marking. For more information, visit www.saint-gobain-glass.com/ce

8. What does this performance mean to me in real terms?

The exact amount of energy you will save depends on a number of factors, including:

- The type and size of your home
- The type of heating in your home
- The window frame material you are replacing
- The specification of the replacement windows

As an example, for a typical three bedroom semi detached house with gas central heating, replacing single glazed, timber framed windows with uPVC, A rated windows using PLANITHERM TOTAL+ glass, will save around £180 per year. This equates to 22% of the average UK gas household gas bill of £800. If you have a larger home, or are upgrading from steel or aluminium framed windows, you will save even more.

These figures are calculated using an energy savings calculator developed by the Glass and Glazing Federation, endorsed by the Energy Saving Trust and the quarterly energy price statistics issued by the Department for Energy and Climate Control.

You can calculate the savings for your home by using the calculator via www.planitherm.com/savingscalculator

9. How much more will it cost me to install PLANITHERM?

The cost of having PLANITHERM in your windows will vary from one window company to another. It is therefore a good idea to get quotes from a number of companies to compare costs and the services they offer.

10. Will the coating affect the appearance of the glass?

No, the coating is completely transparent and microscopically thin.

11. Is this a new product?

No, Saint-Gobain Glass has been producing energy efficient window glass for many years and has a wealth of experience in coated products. PLANITHERM has been manufactured in the UK since 2004.

12. Will PLANITHERM make my house too warm in summer?

PLANITHERM is specifically designed to keep interiors more comfortable in winter months and improve the energy efficiency of your home. It has excellent thermal insulation whilst maximising free solar heat gain, saving on energy and heating bills*. The actual amount of heat that will enter the home will vary depending on the orientation of the windows, their size and the geographical location of the building.

For most UK homes using PLANITHERM TOTAL+ as the energy efficient glass will give a good balance of both winter and summer comfort. For large windows in south or west facing rooms other versions of PLANITHERM, such as PLANITHERM 4S or PLANITHERM ONE might be more suitable.

These configurations are available from our Glazing Options range. Ask your local installer from the PLANITHERM Installer Network for more information.

13. What is a Window Energy Rating?

Window Energy Ratings (WERs) is a system for demonstrating the energy efficiency of a window. It is operated nationally by the British Fenestration Ratings Council (BFRC).

The labelling used is similar to those seen on appliances such as fridges and freezers, offering an easy method for comparison. To check a window's energy efficiency before you buy, ask to look at the energy label. The ratings range from G to A+ with a C-rating being the minimum rating required for compliance with current Building Regulations, Part L.

Many consumers opt for the highest ratings, A or A+, to gain the maximum energy efficiencies. In an A+ rated window, more heat is gained than is lost, giving a positive (+) rating. This does not mean that no energy will be required to heat the home but it is an indicator of optimal energy efficiency performance.

WERs considers three aspects of performance:

- Amount of heat loss
- Amount of solar heat gain
- The air leakage of the assembly

14. Can PLANITHERM be used in any window frame?

Yes, PLANITHERM can be used in all types of window frames and in both double and triple glazing configurations.

15. What is the carbon footprint of an energy efficient window?

The carbon used to manufacture one square metre of double glazing is saved within 3.5 months if replacing single glazing windows. In the case of standard double glazing being replaced by energy efficient double glazing, the time is around 10.5 months.

16. Does Saint-Gobain Glass guarantee the quality of the work carried out by installers who are members of the PLANITHERM Installer Network?

No, installers who use PLANITHERM can register on the installer network and have met our network requirements. However, we do not guarantee their work and any queries or issues with your windows should be directed to your installer.

Energy Window	
XZZ Window Company Energy Saving Window	
	A+
Energy Index (kWh/m ² /year) Energy Index certified by BFRC and based on a specific application will depend on the building, the local climate and the indoor temperature	+10
The climate zone is:	UK
Thermal Transmittance (U _{frame})	1.4 W/m ² .K
Solar Factor (g _{frame})	0.45
Effective Air Leakage (L _{air})	0.00 W/m ² .K
Reg. No.: Sample www.bfrc.org	

Example of a BFRC window energy rating label