

# WINDOW AND DOOR UPGRADES



## WINDOWS

If your home has single glazing, metal frame windows or double-glazing installed prior to 1990 then replacing these with new double or triple glazing will provide significant energy savings. Replacing reasonably well performing double-glazed windows is not advised as the energy saving benefits do not outweigh the additional cost. If some panes in your double-glazing are misted, it means the seal inside the two panes has failed and the windowpane is no longer providing insulation. Check with an installer if you can replace failed panes rather than the whole window to save costs.

If you are aiming for a high performing deep retrofit, then triple glazing would help achieve the required energy performance.

Secondary glazing is an alternative option for homes where new double or triple glazing is not possible (i.e., traditional buildings of heritage value). Secondary glazing is placed on the inside of a window opening and creates a vacuum between the windows which can achieve up to a 60% reduction in heat loss. Secondary glazing can be single or double glazed and is available as hinged, sliding or fixed systems. Thought should be given to cleaning and maintenance of the existing windows.

## DOORS

Older doors tend to have little insulative properties and can be very draughty. New external doors typically contain insulation to reduce heat loss and comply with current Building Regulations. Doors which are Passivhaus-certified will achieve the highest standard of thermal performance.

## CONSERVATION AREAS AND LISTED BUILDINGS

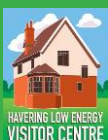
If you live in a conservation area, it is expected that any changes to the exterior of your home continue to preserve or enhance the character of the area. This means that any new windows and doors should complement the character of the building and area. This typically means upgrading existing glazing or replacing windows and doors with good quality products which are in keeping with the original architectural style. Where windows are robust enough to accommodate extra thickness and weight, slim-line double glazing can be retrofitted into existing window frames to improve thermal performance. Thermal single glazing could also be used where double glazing is not possible. Where historic windows cannot be upgraded without causing harm to their significance (e.g. in a listed building) then consideration should be given to additional draught proofing works and the installation of secondary glazing.

### Risks

When your windows are replaced, it is vital to make sure the building remains well-ventilated as new windows and doors will contribute to improving the air tightness of your home. New double glazing is required to have trickle vents and you should keep these open where possible to allow fresh air into your home and moist, stale air to escape.

Cost: £££

Disruption: ■ ■ □ □ □



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