



The benefits of building with wood windows

The **Wood Window** Alliance



**WOOD. AT THE HEART
OF A GOOD WINDOW**

The benefits of building with wood windows

If you specify windows carrying the Wood Window Alliance quality mark you can be sure they will deliver the benefits you need.

Increased Government and EU legislation, changes to UK Building Regulations, new building codes and increased emphasis on sustainability mean that specifiers and buyers need to ensure that the windows they choose provide the best solution to a huge array of needs.

Modern factory finished and glazed wood windows have:

- The lowest environmental impact of any window material
 - Top BRE Green Guide 'A+' rating
- Responsible sourcing with chain-of-custody certification back to the forest source
- Low embodied carbon
 - Top BRE Green Guide Climate Change impact 'A' rating
- Energy efficiency with a wide selection of insulated glazing units
 - Overall U-values down to 1.0 W/m²K or lower
 - A-rated window energy ratings
 - Triple-glazed if required
- Excellent weather performance even in extreme exposure conditions
- Long service life with minimum maintenance
 - With service life warranties for the timber frames, paint, glazing units and ironmongery
 - Factory-applied paint systems, no on-site painting
 - Ease of maintenance and repair
 - Minimum service life expectation of 60 years
 - Extended service life achievable when correctly maintained
- High security features to Secured by Design requirements

- Triple-glazing gives good acoustic performance with improved noise reduction
- Aesthetics suitable for all building types
- Large selection of window types and styles.

Benefits in BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes, PassivHouse and Super 'E' requirements

Thermal efficiency

- U-values down to 1.0W/m²K or better for PassivHouse developments

Additional credits for

- **ENE 1 and 2** – Thermal envelope performance
- **MAT 1** – Environmental impact of materials – BRE Green Guide
 - Wood windows painted with water-based paints score A+
- **MAT 3** – Responsible sourcing of materials – finishing elements
 - Chain of custody certification to Government CPET requirements
- **HEA 1** – Health and Wellbeing – daylighting
- **HEA 2** – Health and Wellbeing – sound insulation
- **HEA 4** – Health and Wellbeing – Lifetime homes
 - Wood windows readily available with specialist ironmongery suited to wheelchair access requirements
- **MAN 4** – Management – Security
 - Specification to Secured by Design standards.



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England and Wales Building Regulation Approved Documents (See Scottish Building Standards for equivalent requirements)

- App Doc B – Fire Safety
- App Doc C – Resistance to moisture – Joints between walls and windows
- App Doc E – Resistance to Sound
- App Doc F – Ventilation
- App Doc K – Protection from falling
- App Doc L – Conservation of fuel and power
- App Doc M – Access to and use of buildings
- App Doc N – Glazing

Benefits in commercial applications

Wood windows are ideally suited for many non-domestic buildings such as offices, schools, health centres or other commercial developments.

- Available in a wide range of styles
- Meet BREEAM requirements
- The lowest environmental impact of any window material
 - Top BRE Green Guide 'A+' rating
- Low embodied carbon
 - Carbon negative frames
 - Top BRE Green Guide Climate Change impact 'A' rating
- Often required in conservation area commercial developments.

Benefits in Building Regulations requirements

- Wood windows present no difficulties in meeting any of the Approved Documents
- In many cases, they can offer a more cost-effective option
- Windows made from all materials may have to meet or exceed some or all of the Regulations below.

A window carrying the WWA quality mark ticks all the boxes:

- ✓ Energy-efficient (A ratings; low U-values)
- ✓ Responsible purchasing (wood certified from sustainable sources)
- ✓ Naturally renewable
- ✓ Sustainable (A+ in BRE Green Guide)
- ✓ Low climate change impact (A in BRE Green Guide)
- ✓ Carbon negative frames
- ✓ 60 year minimum estimated service life
- ✓ Repairable (for an even longer life)
- ✓ Comprehensive warranties on service life, finishes, glass and hardware
- ✓ Independently verified performance and quality

Information relating to the relative performance of wood windows against these standards is shown in **Section 2 – Performance**.



Benefits in conservation areas and listed buildings

- Wood windows remain the only choice of frame material in conservation areas and in listed building refurbishment where single-glazed sightlines are important in retaining the character of the building
- Repairability and upgrading of wood windows can easily be achieved to retain existing frames.

Benefits in 'period' housing

Unsuitable replacement windows have spoiled the looks of many period homes and when it comes to selling, many owners find they have reduced their property's desirability and value. Wood windows are a traditional quality investment that will enhance a home and its value.