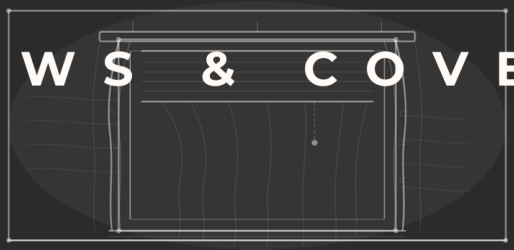
8 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

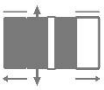
WINDOWS & COVERINGS



Healthy Homes Factsheet Series
by Warmer Homes

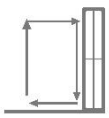
THE WEAKEST LINK

Even a well-insulated home can lose enormous amounts of heat through single-glazed windows. Glass conducts heat far more readily than an insulated wall, so your windows are worthy of attention.



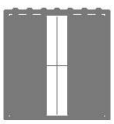
MATERIAL MATTERS

Aluminium frames — common in older NZ homes — conduct heat readily and can become a significant source of heat loss and condensation in their own right. Thermally broken aluminium or uPVC frames perform considerably better.



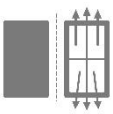
WHEN CURTAINS FAIL

When warm air hits a cold window, it cools down and sinks to the floor. This creates a vacuum that pulls more warm air from the ceiling down against the glass to the floor, creating a cycle of heat loss. Curtains that don't touch the floor and have a gap at the top will enable this cycle.



GO FOR CURTAIN GOLD

A gold standard curtain system will be double-layered with additional thermal layer, touch the floor, have no gap at the top, go beyond the full width of the window and fit tightly against the wall and window frame.

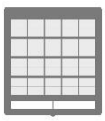


COMPARING HEAT LOSS

To illustrate the scale of heat loss: a standard single-glazed window has an R-value of only 0.15, with double-glazing between R0.3 to R0.5. Compared to a standard insulated wall at R2.0, your windows can lose heat 4 to 10 times faster than the walls surrounding them.

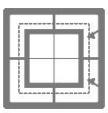
WINDOW INSULATION KITS

Highly cost effective. These are cheap and easy to install yourself, yet can be nearly as effective as double glazing when done right. Also reduces condensation. Worth giving it a go, at least just for the winter months.



BLINDS NEED TO FIT

It is not uncommon to see blinds that aren't fitted properly. Have them close to the window and sitting within the frame, without any gaps at the top, bottom or sides. Honeycomb blinds are the most effective type when it comes to trapping heat.



RETROFIT DOUBLE GLAZING

Secondary glazing — adding an additional pane or panel inside an existing window — can significantly improve thermal and acoustic performance at a fraction of the cost of full replacement, and is a practical option for renters or heritage homes.

This factsheet is provided by Warmer Homes.
We hope that by reading our factsheets you will learn some useful ways to make your home warmer, drier and more comfortable to live in. Learn more at warmerhomes.nz

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