

# Environmentally Sustainable Design and Energy Efficiency Information Sheets

## Information Sheet – Windows and Glazing

### Windows and Glazing

Windows play an important part in the makeup of a dwelling. Windows let in air to cool and ventilate a dwelling, as well as natural light to provide a comfortable living environment. They also enable views of the outdoors and connect the interior and exterior of dwellings. It is important to appropriately design and locate your windows to take advantage of these benefits, and also in order to reduce heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter.



- Windows which are appropriately designed and located can assist with making your home more comfortable, help to reduce your energy costs, and create brighter and comfortable living areas within the home
- Windows on the northern elevation should be maximised, and shaded with eaves or other shading devices
- On the southern elevation, the number of windows should be minimised, however there should be enough openings to allow for cross ventilation throughout the dwelling
- Windows on the east of the dwelling should be avoided, however if required, should be as small as necessary. These windows need to be provided with external shading.
- Like eastern windows, western windows should also be avoided, or minimised. The western side of any dwelling will be exposed to the strongest sun at the hottest time of the day.
- Locate windows to allow for cross-ventilation throughout your dwelling. In summer time, this will enable the evening summer breezes to flow through and help cool your dwelling.
- When choosing your windows, it is important to consider the type of glass, the window frames, and any window coverings, as this assists with improving the energy efficiency of your dwelling.
- Installing double glazed windows can help to reduce the amount of heat gain in a dwelling during the summer time and reduce the amount of heat which is lost in the winter time.

