

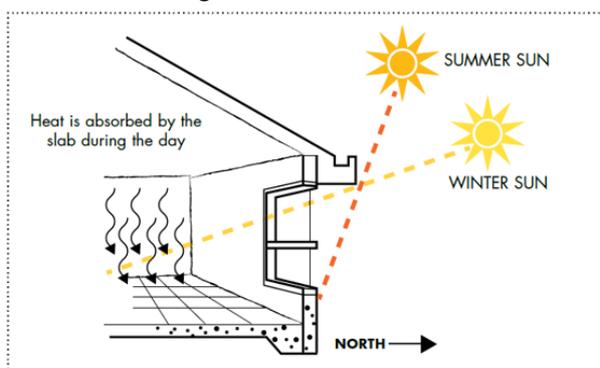
Environmentally Sustainable Design and Energy Efficiency Information Sheets

Information Sheet – Orientation and Siting

The orientation of your dwelling and its individual rooms can play a significant part in the ongoing operating costs of your home and the comfort of your family. Depending on the season, the position of the sun varies. It is important that you position your dwelling to take advantage of these sun variations. Good orientation and siting can reduce your dwellings use of energy for heating and cooling purposes, which in turn can reduce energy bills and increase comfort levels within the home.

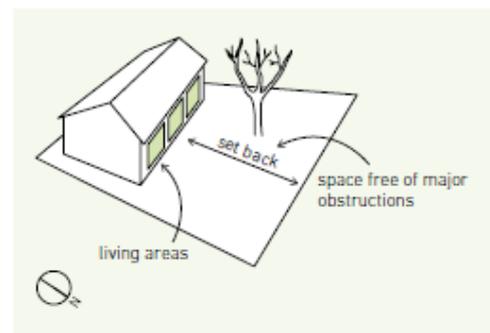
Consider the following when orientating and siting your dwelling:

- Locate living areas and windows to the north of the dwelling to take advantage of the winter sun and reduce exposure to the summer sun.
- Position utility areas, such as bathrooms and laundries (where typically less time is spent) to the south or west side of the dwelling.
- Minimise the number of windows on the south, east and west sides of the dwelling.
- Avoid locating bedrooms on the western side of the dwelling, as this will lead to an uncomfortable night's sleep. Instead locate bedrooms to the south of the dwelling to enable better sleeping conditions.
- Site your dwelling with the southern and western walls as close as possible to the boundaries of the land to allow the northern and eastern areas to be used for outdoor living and gardens
- Position your garage or carport on the western side of the dwelling to reduce the exposure of sun to the western side of the dwelling. Avoid placing any obstructions on the northern side.
- West facing walls receive the strongest sun during the hottest part of the day in summer time.
- Incorporate a large expanse of north facing roof to allow for optimising the positioning of solar panels and hot water panels.
- Ensure that north facing walls and windows are well setback from other large buildings or trees to minimise the extent of overshadowing.
- Strategically locate plantings to ensure that larger trees and shrubs do not result in overshadowing .



Source: Smart Living at Home – East Gippsland Shire Council

Unobstructed space to the north for good solar access



Source: Energy Smart Housing Manual
Sustainability Victoria