

## A guide to a comfortable, efficient home

# Window types

Selecting windows with these criteria ensures better insulation, comfort, and long-term energy savings for your home.

Window performance varies significantly and isn't always obvious from appearance or price. Understanding the key criteria for window selection can help you choose the best option for energy efficiency, comfort, and overall performance.

### Key selection criteria

#### Glazing U-value

Measures the heat-retaining ability of the glazing. For double glazing, look for a U-value of 1.3 W/m<sup>2</sup>K or lower; for triple glazing, aim for 0.6 W/m<sup>2</sup>K or lower.

#### Frame type

The frame plays a vital role in thermal performance. Avoid metal frames unless they have a dedicated thermal break. Timber frames generally perform well and can be aluminium clad for lower maintenance.. Ideal frame U-value: less than 1.6 W/m<sup>2</sup>K.

#### Whole window U-value

If the installer only provides a whole-window U-value, aim for 1.4 W/m<sup>2</sup>K or lower for double glazing and 1.0 W/m<sup>2</sup>K or lower for triple glazing.

#### Window design

The frame typically has lower thermal performance than the glazing, so minimise frame areas (including mullions and transoms) to improve efficiency and maximise natural light.

#### Airtightness

Look for windows with a multi-point closing mechanism and two separate seals to prevent draughts and improve security. An airpermeability test rating of Class 4 indicates good airtightness.

*Note: In listed buildings and conservation areas the frame design and type of glazing will be determined by the existing window and the surrounding context. Seek advice early rather than make a costly mistake.*



Triple glazed opening sash – timber frame with aluminium cladding and two seals  
(Source: Internorm)



Multi-point locking mechanism  
(Source: Sashed)