

# Secondary glazing

## The low-cost alternative to double glazing

Around 18% of the total heat loss from a typical house is through the windows

For some householders replacing old single-glazed windows with modern double-glazing is not an option. This may be due to the cost involved, or because the house is listed or in a conservation area where original features like sash windows have to be retained.

However it is still possible to cut out the draughts and reduce heat loss through windows using various forms of **secondary glazing**. Some can be bought from your local hardware store and fitted yourself; others are more specialist. Some of the secondary-glazing options listed below are not allowed in listed buildings, so check first.

### Transparent film secondary glazing

The simplest and cheapest form of secondary glazing is thin transparent plastic film which you install yourself using strips of double-sided sticky tape around the frame of the window. The material looks like 'cling-film', but if fitted properly it is wrinkle-free and almost invisible. To install, apply the tape to the frame of the window, cut the film to size and attach it carefully to the tape until it creates a seal. Then *carefully* shrink the film with hot air from a hairdryer until it pulls taught, and trim any excess film from around the edges.



Enough film to cover a large bay-window costs £10-15 and is available from DIY stores. The film is simple to remove, though it can damage paintwork.

### Temporary secondary glazing

Next up, in terms of expense, complexity and permanence are the systems in which a sheet of rigid and transparent material like clear acrylic plastic is fitted to the window frame, in such a way that it can be put up or taken down as the season requires. Some systems use magnet strips to attach the secondary glazing to the frame, others a velcro-like material. A particularly popular method is 'clip



Windows let the light in, but let the warmth out, too. Secondary glazing helps keep the warm air at home

and stick' where uPVC edging is used to clip the panel in place over the window frame. These types of glazing also help reduce noise.

### Semi-permanent secondary glazing

Some of the more expensive types of secondary glazing are semi-permanent and are fixed either by screwing them into place or using a strong adhesive or sealant. They can be made of heavy materials like glass. On wider windows they can slide open on tracks to allow the windows to open as normal. This type are not generally suitable for DIY.



Sash windows are notorious for letting in cold air. You can get clear, light-weight acrylic panels to fit over the glazed frames, but these don't cover the many gaps on the sides, top and bottom that make sash frames particularly draughty.

Keeping the warm air in the house will save you money on heating. See over for other energy-saving tips ...



Turn over for energy saving tips ▶

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# Tips for lower energy bills

Happy paying your gas and electricity supplier more money than you need to?

Thought not. Here are 15 ways to cut your bills ...

1) **Keep the oven door shut as much as possible;** every time you open it, nearly a quarter of the heat escapes.



2) **Give your clothes a day in the sun;** and give your tumble drier a break. Clothes dried in the fresh air feel great, and there are drying days in winter, too.

3) **Food in the oven cooks faster when the air inside flows freely,** so avoid putting foil on the racks.

4) **Don't leave your phone on charge all night.** It only needs three hours – and try not to leave the TV and other kit on stand-by.

5) **Be a friend to your freezer.** Defrost it regularly to help it run more efficiently.

6) **Catch 'em young.** Encourage your children to switch off electric toys and lights that they're not using. They'll soon get the hang of saving energy.



7) **Dodge the draught!**

Fit draught-excluders to your front door, letter box and key hole, and draw your curtains at dusk to keep the heat in.

8) **When boiling water, only fill the kettle with as much as you'll actually use** (but make sure you cover the metal element at the base).

9) **Buying a new TV, washing machine or dishwasher?** Look out for the Energy Saving Trust 'recommended' logo, and remember: the bigger the TV, the more energy it'll use.



10) **Dimmer is smarter.** Use your dimmer switches to reduce the amount of energy used to light your room.

11) **Wait until you have a full load before putting on a wash.** Two half-loads use more energy (and water) than one full load.



12) **Sleep tight.** Make sure all the lights are turned off when you go to bed, or use a low-wattage night light if you do need to leave one on.

13) **Turn your heating down by 1 degree.** You'll hardly notice the change in temperature, but it'll make a big difference to your heating bill.

14) **Put your fridge in a good spot.** Somewhere the air can circulate behind it, but not next to a cooker or radiator.

15) **New computer?** Remember a laptop typically uses around 85% less energy than a new desktop PC.

For free domestic energy advice, call **0800 512 012** \*  
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We are a national charity that shares our knowledge and experience to help people change the way they think and act on energy.



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