

MEDIA RELEASE

(INSERT DATE)



What's in a window? A view to energy efficiency

Windows are fundamental architectural features that provide access to the outside world, open your house to surrounding views and create a sense of space. However, modern windows offer much more than pure aesthetics, as the right windows play a pivotal role in a home's energy efficiency capabilities.

The Australian Glass and Window Association's (AGWA) Technical Manager Russell Harris comments, "These days, windows are far more than just 'commodities'. It's not simply about price, availability and visual appeal anymore. Other vital factors must be considered if you want maximum value from your windows.

"When choosing windows, think of them as you would a household appliance, with differentiating benefits that contribute significantly to the overall running of a home. These benefits include energy efficiency, sound reduction, safety and security," Russell said.

The Building Code of Australia requires all Australian window manufacturers to comply with Australian Standards. As a condition of membership, all AGWA members must engage in an annual compliance program accredited by the independent National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

Local window (insert company type, i.e. manufacturer, supplier, fabricator, etc. and then insert your company name) has been an AGWA member for the past (insert number of years) years, which means its factories are regularly visited and products inspected to ensure compliance to the Building Code of Australia.

(Insert a quote from your company's spokesperson regarding why annual testing is important, what being an AGWA member means to your company and what it means to your customers).

NATA testing of high winds and driving rains, operating force requirement, air infiltration pressure and wind pressures in effect provide assurance in regards to the window's performance capabilities. "Ask to see your window manufacturer's compliance certificate, to know the manufacturer's methods aim to achieve best practice and for a guarantee of compliance," Russell said.

Building Surveyors and Certifiers require compliance verification, so attaching the compliance certificate to your building applications will expedite council approvals.

Secondly, check for a performance label, which is usually located in the jamb of a window.

 AUSTRALIAN GLASS & WINDOW ASSOCIATION <small>This manufacturer certifies that this product was designed to conform with AS2047. The design performance has been verified by a NATA accredited test laboratory. This manufacturer is a member of the AGWA Accreditation Program.</small>	XYZ ACCRED MEMB No. XXX	DESIGN PERFORMANCE			ENERGY RATED  WINDOW ENERGY RATING
		SLS	ULS	WATER	
		kPa	kPa	Pa	

(2)

“This label is similar to the Heart Foundations’ tick on food products, in that it gives consumers peace of mind. It confirms the windows and associated products have passed NATA tests and are certified to comply with Australian Standards,” says Russell.

A properly selected energy efficient window can reduce energy costs and green house gas emissions, and improve a homeowner’s comfort.

For a typically insulated house, windows are the building element responsible for the biggest heat loss or gain. An average home may lose up to 40% of its heating or cooling energy through its windows, so energy efficient windows save real money by reducing annual heating and cooling bills.

The third factor to consider when buying windows is the Window Energy Rating Scheme (WERS) label. Similar to the star energy rating label found on whitegoods, the WERS label rates the energy impact of windows.

The window’s cooling and heating performance is rated separately on a scale of zero to five stars. Just like your washing machine or fridge, the more stars, the better. These stars relate to the effect the window will have on the energy performance of the whole house.

Homeowners have many different needs regarding the performance of their windows, yet they all need surety in the accuracy of the manufacturer’s claims. It is here that the AGWA, representing all types of window materials, provides peace of mind.

“Home resale value, comfort, costs and amenity are all improved by the use of high performance windows,” Russell said. “Not all windows are manufactured to the strict guidelines of the AGWA, so follow these simple steps to ensure you choose the best products for your needs.” For further information on windows and doors and glass or to verify whether your windows are compliant, contact AGWA on 02 9498 2768, info@agwa.com.au or visit www.agwa.com.au.

About the AGWA:

The Australian Glass and Window Association (AGWA) nationally represents over 1,000 manufacturers and suppliers to the window, door and glass industries. AGWA members are regularly audited as part of a national compliance program accredited by the independent National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). Members provide a minimum six year guarantee to all products and abide by an industry code of conduct to maintain the high standing of the Australian window industry.

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For further media information from (insert company name) please contact:

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