



The Ultimate Homeowner's Guide to Windows & Doors

Choosing new windows and doors is a significant investment for your home.

This guide is designed to help you navigate your options—from frame materials and styles to the finishing touches—so you can make an informed decision that suits your budget and aesthetic.



uPVC Windows (Standard)

- **Pros:** Most budget-friendly option, high energy efficiency (low thermal conductivity), low maintenance.
- **Cons:** Bulkier frames compared to aluminium, 20–30 year lifespan.
- **Best for:** Budget-conscious projects and high energy performance.



Flush Sash uPVC

- **Pros:** Sash sits flat in the frame (traditional look), excellent insulation, lower cost than timber or aluminium flush options.
- **Cons:** More expensive than standard uPVC casements.
- **Best for:** Conservation areas, period properties, and modern homes seeking a sleek, clean look.



Aluminium Windows

- **Pros:** Slim sightlines allow more light, superior strength for large panes, 30+ year lifespan.
- **Cons:** Higher initial cost (roughly 25% more), lower thermal efficiency than top-tier uPVC (though modern thermal breaks help).
- **Best for:** Modern, minimalist homes and long-term durability.

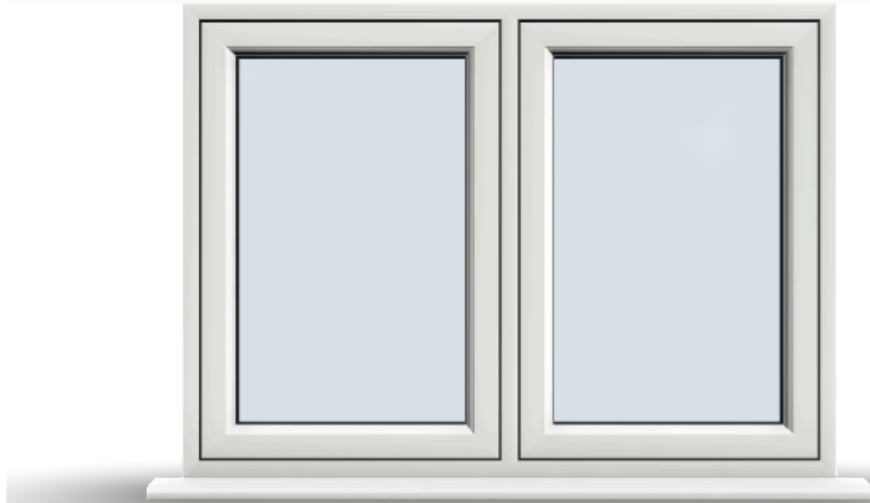


Comparison

UPVC



FLUSH UPVC



ALUMINIUM





Decorative Glass & Bar Options

Customising the glass is one of the best ways to match your windows to the character of your home. Popular styles include:

- **Astragal Bars:** Fixed to the surface of the glass to give the appearance of individual small panes, perfect for a traditional look.
- **Georgian Bars:** Internal bars set between the panes of glass for easy cleaning while maintaining a classic style.
- **Leadwork:** Options include Diamond Lead or Square Lead patterns to add a heritage feel to your property.





Selecting Your Colour & Finish

Your choice of colour can completely transform your home's exterior. Options are generally split into two categories:

- **Standard Colours:** Timeless choices such as White Grain, Cream, Chartwell Green, Anthracite Grey, and woodgrains like Light Oak or Rosewood.
- **Premium & Trending Colours:** For a more bespoke look, consider modern shades like Claystone, Sage Smooth, Pebble Grey, Agate Grey, or the striking Black Ulti-Matt.
- **Dual Colours:** Many homeowners choose "colour on white"—where the outside of the frame is a bold colour (like Slate Grey or Anthracite) while the inside remains white to keep the interior rooms feeling bright.





Frame Profiles: Sculptured vs. Chamfered

The "profile" refers to the shape of the window frame itself:

- **Sculptured:** Features a curved, more decorative edge that mimics the look of traditional joinery.
- **Chamfered:** Features a flat, sloped edge for a sharper, more contemporary finish.

Quick Comparison Table

Feature	Standard uPVC	Flush uPVC	Aluminium
Cost	Lowest	Mid-Range	Highest
Frame Width	Bulkiest	Sleek	Thinnest
Insulation	Excellent	Excellent	Good (with thermal breaks)
Lifespan	20–30 Years	20–30 Years	30+ Years

Doors



UPVC

COMPOSITE

SIGNATURE ALUMINIUM



VS



VS



uPVC Doors:

- Budget-friendly, offering good durability at a lower price point.
- They are easy to maintain and generally offer fewer, simpler style options.

Composite Doors:

- Crafted from a combination of materials (PVC, wood, GRP) to maximize strength, security, and insulation.
- Look like wood but require little maintenance, making them ideal for traditional, robust front doors.

Signature Aluminium Doors:

- High security - Known for being extremely strong.
- Highly resistant to corrosion.
- Last 25+ years.
- High-end modern looks.
- Many colour options.

Doors



Detailed Breakdown

- **Security:** Both aluminium and composite are top-tier for security, featuring robust multi-point locking systems and high resistance to forced entry. uPVC is secure but generally less robust than the other two.
- **Thermal Efficiency (Insulation):** Composite doors tend to have the best insulation due to their thick, dense insulating cores. Modern aluminium doors are good, but composite generally has the edge in U-values. uPVC offers good efficiency but often lacks the thermal performance of a premium composite door.
- **Durability & Lifespan:** Aluminium has excellent longevity (35+ years) and is highly resistant to weather, though it can scratch. Composite doors are designed for 20+ years with excellent resistance to warping or fading. uPVC can suffer from discoloration or become brittle over 15–20 years.
- **Cost:** uPVC is the cheapest, with composite often costing up to 60% more, but offering better longevity and security. Aluminium generally falls into the higher price bracket, usually costing slightly more than premium composite doors.

Summary Table

Feature	Aluminium	Composite	uPVC
Durability	Excellent	High	Good
Security	High	High	Good
Insulation	High (with breaks)	Very High	Good
Price	High	Medium/High	Low
Maintenance	Very Low	Low	Low

Which to Choose?

- **Aluminium:** Best for modern, minimalist designs, security, and long-term durability.
- **Composite:** Best for a high-quality, secure, and stylish traditional front door.
- **uPVC:** Best for budget-conscious projects, utility areas, or rental properties.