

Facts Sheet for GIY Secondary Secondary (ie cheap double glazing using Clear Comfort)

What we did?

In this episode we look at how to install simple secondary glazing using a product called Clear Comfort (or Winter Windows). This is a plastic sheeting (a bit like strong cellophane) that is stuck to the window frame leaving a layer of air between the plastic film and the glass. This still air insulates your windows.

Heat from a hair-dryer tightens the plastic sheet making it taut and almost invisible.

Why bother?

Windows are a critical element in energy efficient homes. Insulating them really improves the energy efficiency of your home.

By putting up simple secondary glazing on your windows you can insulate your windows and keep lots of precious winter warmth in the house. This means your heater doesn't have to work as hard to keep you warm. This means that your bills will be lower.

The dot-point facts:

- When it comes to keeping heat in your home, windows are useless (even when they are closed!) Just sit by an un-insulated window on a cold winter's night and you will understand this.
- Clear Comfort is not tinted and isn't stuck on the glass. It needs an air gap between the window and the film to work. Air is the insulator.
- The optimal air gap is anywhere between 10 mm and 20 mm. Some aluminium windows have a much smaller gap than this and you run the risk of having the Clear Comfort film sticking to the glass. You will need a different solution for these types of windows.
- Clear Comfort insulates against heat transmission; it does not insulate against sound transmission. You will still hear the traffic or the cock-a-doodle do.
- In most places you will not even know it is there. Under some light you may notice it.
- Clean the window frames well to make sure the double sided tape sticks strongly.
- Apply the Clear Comfort on a low humidity day to avoid any condensation in-between the glass and the film.
- The double sided tape and the plastic film are surprisingly strong for something that is plastic. It will last on your windows for many years.

- Clear Comfort is designed to stay on the window permanently. If you wish to remove it (renting or moving) make sure you specify that you want the less-adhesive double sided tape otherwise it is one merry job to get it off.
- If you have air-conditioning, Clear Comfort will help keep you keep this cool air in the house.
- Costs around \$200 for a 'super kit' with 10m x 1.6m sheet of Clear Comfort and tape. Check out the shopping list for more details.
- If you want to try it, order a mini-kit for around \$28. It is enough to cover a small window.
- The branding step (bonding the plastic film to the sticky tape) is a very important step. Don't skimp on this detail!

Other links

Your Home Guide (glazing section)

<http://www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/fs410.html>

Clear Comfort Home Page:

http://www.clearcomfort.com.au/window_insulation.htm