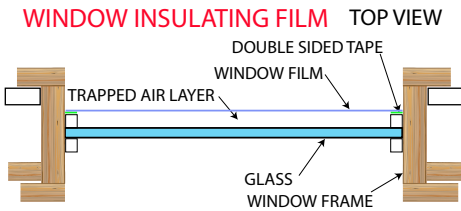


DIY insulating films - \$10s /window

Because the insulation value primarily comes from the air, anything that effectively traps the air will work. Common in colder climates but only



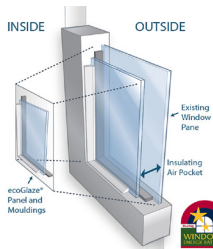
just appearing here are DIY double glazing films. They are a clear plastic film, similar to cling wrap, which is applied across the window frames using double sided tape. The depth of the frame leaves an air gap, which provides the insulation. If they are applied well they can last several years, but they can be easily damaged and because the film is flexible it provides none of the soundproofing benefits of rigid double glazing.



They are very cheap to buy, and easy to apply and remove yourself, so replacing damaged films is not a big deal. Ideal for rentals and people on a budget, we also recommend them to people considering the more expensive options to see how much of a difference double glazing will make.



Retrofit Double Glazing - \$100s /window



The next level up is to retrofit a custom made internal frame with some acrylic glazing to your windows. This is a much more robust and permanent solution with some soundproofing benefits as well. They are usually made to be removable in case you need to clean the glass, repaint frames etc. Talk to us about reputable companies who can provide this service.

Replacing Windows - \$1000s /window

The most effective but most expensive solution, especially with conductive frames like aluminium, is to replace the entire window and frame with a new double glazed unit. This can be very expensive and we don't generally recommend it unless the windows need replacing anyway due to age or damage. Speak to a reputable builder for pricing.



The EnviroShop stocks a wide range of sustainable living products, and we have the knowledge to help you choose the right product for your situation.

Drop into one of our stores for a chat or contact us via phone or email.

If you want to really educate yourself about efficient windows visit www.wers.net the website of the Window Energy Rating Scheme.



APPLYING DIY WINDOW FILM



Applying DIY double glazing film to your windows is easy. We give you a few tips to help you do a perfect job.

Double glazing your windows will greatly improve the comfort and efficiency of your home, but replacing windows with new double glazed units is very expensive. Retrofit double glazing is much cheaper but still pricey. DIY double glazing film is cheap, effective and easy to remove, ideal for renters or just to try out double glazing to see if it's worth spending more on retrofit options.



Shop locations

253 High Street
Northcote, VIC
(03) 8395 3030

49 Lyons Street
Newstead, VIC
(03) 5472 4160

email enquiries : info@enviroshop.com.au
www.enviroshop.com.au
www.enviroshop.com.au/shop

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Are your windows suitable?

Double glazing relies on a trapped layer of air that can't move. The ideal air gap between layers is between 10 - 20mm. If it's much more or less than this then the effectiveness is greatly reduced.

- Most common *timber* window frames are around 10mm thick. Some fixed frames have a much deeper reveal, often 10 - 15cm, which is far too deep. The air can still circulate within the gap and conduct heat. You can add a small strip of timber beading closer to the glass and apply the film to that, or make a removable frame like that suggested for aluminium windows.

- *Aluminium* window frames are often not suitable, as the frames are either too thin (~2 - 3mm) or too deep if they are fixed panes. The aluminium frame is also very thermally conductive and should be insulated. See our info sheet on how to make frames to fit inside the window reveal to insulate the glass and frame.

- *Steel* window frames can vary, some are a suitable depth and others not, but the frame itself is still quite thermally conductive. You can either apply the film to the steel frame or make a frame insert as suggested for aluminium windows.

- Awning, casement and sliding windows are usually pretty easy. You may need to remove some of the window hardware (locks, latches, winders etc) temporarily and then replace over the top of the film after application.

- Double hung windows can be a bit trickier. The lower pane is usually easy, although you may need to temporarily remove some latches or handles. The top pane is difficult. If you have a centre latch that will cut through where the film goes, you can only apply the film down to the latch or trim a hole around it. It's not ideal having it open at the bottom, but better than nothing.

If you have bolts at the side instead then you can apply the film most of the way down, leaving some excess, then open the bottom pane. You should be able to feed the loose bit of film down the gap, then go outside and pull it through. With a bit of tricky finger work you should be able to apply the double sided tape and then stick the film down in the small gap between the top frame and the bottom glass. (Remember to clean the frame before applying the tape!)

If the exterior finish is in decent condition you can try giving it a good clean and light sand and applying the film externally. It won't last as long when exposed to the weather though.

Preparation

Like all DIY jobs, good preparation will help ensure a good result. The better the finish the longer the tape will stick. We've got customers who have had the film up for three years and counting.

- Decide on the windows you want to insulate. Common living areas that are heated are first priority. Double glazing can help reduce condensation in bedrooms.

- Measure the glass size/s and allow 3 - 4cm extra all around for the tape and some extra to trim.

- Sketch the dimensions up on a piece of paper and work out how many you can fit per sheet of film. This might require a bit of simple maths and mental gymnastics to get the ideal layout with the least wastage but isn't too difficult.

- Standard sheet sizes in the Duck range are 5.3 x 1.5m, with one in the '5 Window kit' and two in the '10 Window kit'. If any of your glazing is larger than 1.5m in both dimensions (usually big sliding doors etc), you can get the Big Window Kit with a sheet that is 213cm x 305cm.

- Purchase the required Window Film Insulation kit/s.

- To prepare and apply you will need:

- cleaning products like rags, scourers or cloths

- possibly sandpaper

- methylated spirits (or isopropyl alcohol)

- tape measure

- scissors and a craft knife

- hair-dryer.

- Rough or dirty surfaces will prevent the tape from sticking well, resulting in films peeling off prematurely. If the timber, varnish or paint is rough or peeling, give it a light sand to smooth it out.

- Make sure the frame where the tape is to be applied is very clean, especially in kitchens etc where a layer of oil can form on the frame or windows that are commonly touched, leaving fingerprints. Clean thoroughly around the window frame, first with a damp rag to remove dust and dirt and then with metho or alcohol to remove any grease or oil.

- Also clean the window itself, any smudges on the inside of the window will be there for the long term!

- Allow to dry properly before applying tape.

Application

- Unfold the film, ensuring that layers are not stuck together
- Cut sections to fit your windows, allowing at least 2cm extra on all sides to give you a working 'handle' when applying the film. You will trim the excess later.

- Apply tape around the frame edge, making sure there are no gaps where the corners join. Before removing the backing paper from the tape burnish down with the back of a spoon to ensure the tape is firmly attached to the frame.

- Starting at the top of the window, apply film to tape, repositioning & stretching the film to ensure there are no wrinkles attached to the tape. Wrinkles and slack within the window frame are not a problem.

- Most people find it easiest to roll the film up, attach the top and then roll it down the window, making sure the sides are neatly attached as you go.

- Remove any remaining wrinkles with a hair-dryer by starting in a corner and working methodically across the window, taking care not to touch the film or overheat it.

- Trim any excess film off beyond the line of the tape with sharp scissors or a craft knife.

