

LIVING GREEN NEWS

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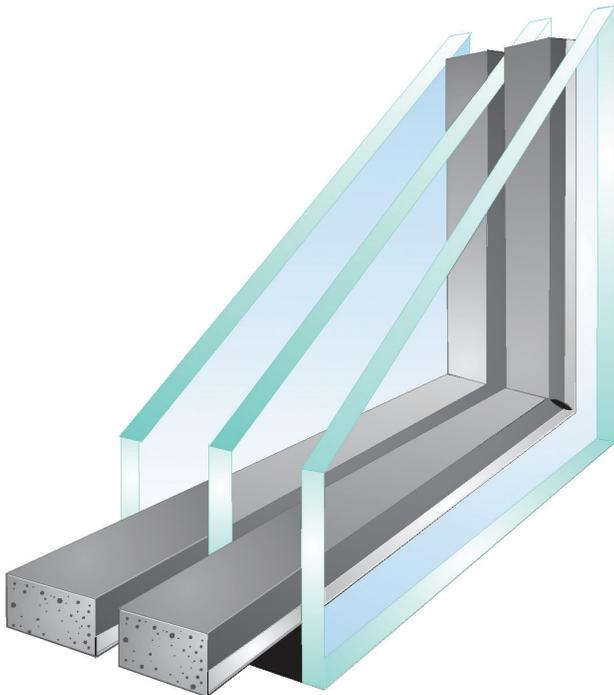


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Can you believe it!!! - Triple Pane Windows

Triple pane windows (also known as triple glazed windows) are the newest windows on the market. These are windows with three layers of glass – outer, middle and inner. The middle layer is generally surrounded by an inert gas like argon or krypton (or sometimes a mixture), which is trapped by the outer and inner panes.



Benefits of Triple Pane Windows vs. Double Pane Windows

A triple pane window provides more insulation and is more energy efficient than the more common double pane window (or dual pane), not just because of the added barrier, but because this extra layer allows another surface to be given a low-emittance (Low-E) coating.

Essentially a Low-E coating hinders radiant heat transfer. Therefore, the temperature on the inside of your building is not affected much by means of the triple pane windows whether it is summer or winter, as very little heat will be lost from the inside or gained from the outside. This is one clear advantage triple panes have over double panes.

Another advantage of triple pane windows over dual pane is that they do not attract as much condensation on the interior. Also, generally speaking, triple panes will provide better insulation against sound or noise from outside. However, bear in mind that double panes can be just as effective (or close enough anyway), if the overall space between the inner and outer layers, and the thickness of the glasses are the same for the double and triple.

Drawbacks to Triple Pane Windows vs. Double Pane Windows

There are of course some drawbacks to triple pane windows. The main one is the cost. Triple pane windows can be quite expensive when compared to double pane. However, you could say that triple pane windows are an investment since the initial cost should be recovered in the savings attained from the low energy loss. However, realistically the additional cost probably will not be recovered in the lifetime of the window. This does somewhat depend on where you live and how cold it gets. For those in the more extreme climates, it might work out to be more cost effective to get triple pane windows. Another drawback to triple pane windows is that the extra pane adds to the weight of the window, and this can have adverse effects to the structure of the building and the window itself, if the structure wasn't built to accommodate this type of weight.

For the most part, and manufacturers may not agree, triple pane windows can be considered a luxury that gives added comfort. Whether or not they are worth it, will depend on what it is you are trying to accomplish. The more noteworthy points of consideration have been highlighted here. This is another case where you must do your homework and become an informed consumer before you make a decision.

Did you know?

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver and purple.

A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.