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PVCu Windows and the Environment

Have you ever wondered how PVCu windows compare with alternatives such as Timber or Aluminium and their effects on the Environment?

Well now the influential Building Research Establishment (BRE) has published an independent **Green Guide** which rates the environmental impacts of the most common materials used in building. The guide is used by architects and specifiers to make decisions on how to comply with the various demands placed on them from a building and environmental aspect.

The rating for various products are set out in an **A+** to **E** ranking system, where **A+** represents the best environmental performance/least environmental impact, and **E** the worst environmental performance/most environmental impact. BRE has provided a summary environmental rating - The Green Guide rating, which is a measure of overall environmental impacts.

PVCu Windows and Doors have been awarded the highest rankings of A+ in commercial buildings and A in domestic properties. This underscores PVCu's credentials as a safe, robust and cost effective answer for glazing requirements.

Today's advanced performance PVC windows and doors can deliver significant energy savings. They can play a positive role in making your home more sustainable by helping you to cut your carbon footprint, not to mention the price of your heating bills.

The average UK home produces six tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. Multiply that nationally and you get a total of 83 million tonnes.

The installation of advanced performance windows, for example a C rated window, will save 852kg of CO₂ per year, per property – the equivalent of five double decker buses filled with gas. Fit an A rated window and the carbon saving becomes even higher.

And you'll not just cut the size of your carbon footprint but also your gas and electricity bills.

Based on current energy prices a house with old single glazed windows will lose about £188 per year in heat lost through the windows. Fitting C energy rated windows will cut the average cost of heat loss to around £45 per year – a potential saving of £143 per year, per home. And as an A rated window positively adds heat to the property the financial cost of heat loss is eliminated altogether, a saving of £188 per year, per home. And that's at today's energy prices.

And what's more, the PVC industry has closed the loop on the recycling process to bring material from old early generation windows back into use in a new advanced generation of products.

Research suggests that PVC can go through this recycling process up to 10 times without losing performance and independent studies suggest PVC products have on average a reference service life of 35 years or more. This means each product could have a total life span of 350 years or more.

Available in a choice of colours and foiled finishes, low maintenance, energy efficient, secure and 100 per cent recyclable PVC windows, doors and building products are not only the sustainable but also the smart choice.



Facts about PVC

When choosing the right glazing products for you and your home, it's good to know that they are the right products for the environment too.

- **PVC is 100% recyclable**
- **It is manufactured using 57% chlorine (Sea Salt) and a comparatively small amount of oil, representing less than 4% of the worlds available stocks.**
- **Low maintenance means you won't have to get up a ladder every two years to paint it.**
- **The PVC industry is committed to recycle 100% of its waste by 2010.**
- **PVC can be recycled 10 times or more without losing performance. With a minimum 35 years service life an initial product could have a total life of more than 350 years.**
- **Elitis PVC energy windows have been accredited by the British Fenestration Ratings Council (BFRC) and recommended by the Governments Energy Savings Trust, helping to reduce your carbon footprint and your heating bills.**
- **PVC building products are available in an extensive range of colours and wood effect finishes.**
- **PVC Manufacture releases very few dioxins into the air. In fact, the average European PVC production plant would have to run non stop for 30,000 years to produce the same level of emissions that are released on a single bonfire night.**
- **PVC is totally inert in the environment and used in hundreds of everyday products and in medical applications such as intravenous drips.**
- **Today's advanced PVC products already include a high proportion of recycled content. Elitis windows and doors are also lead-free.**
- **PVC windows have been given an A and A+ rating by the BRE Green Guide.**