

HOUSEPLANSDIRECT TECHNICAL GUIDES

WINDOW TYPES EXPLAINED

A complete guide to residential window styles, performance, ventilation and installation



Coordinated 3D overview of window types explained for residential design and specification.

NINE-PART PUBLICATION EDITION

Casements · Sash windows · Tilt-and-turn · Bays and bows · Roof windows · Glazing · Ventilation · Installation

Version 1.0 | 19 August 2026 | England

Contents

Part	Subject
Part 1	Introduction: Understanding Window Types
Part 2	Casement, Awning, Hopper, Fixed and Tilt-and-turn Windows
Part 3	Sash, Sliding, Bay, Bow and Feature Windows
Part 4	Roof Windows, High-level Windows and Glazed Screens
Part 5	Frames, Glazing, U-values and Solar Performance
Part 6	Ventilation, Security, Safety and Accessibility
Part 7	Building Regulations, Planning and Safety
Part 8	Common Design and Installation Defects
Part 9	Inspection Checklist, FAQs, Glossary and Further Reading

About this guide

This guide explains the principal window types used in low-rise housing in England. It is intended for clients, designers, specifiers, energy assessors, building-control teams, contractors and installers who need to coordinate appearance, opening method, daylight, ventilation, safety, security, thermal performance and weathering.

SCOPE Window selection is project-, elevation-, exposure-, ventilation-, overheating-, security- and product-specific. Use declared whole-window performance and manufacturer details for the actual size and configuration.

Part 1 – Introduction: Understanding Window Types

Classifying windows by movement, geometry, material, glazing and performance

A window admits daylight and views while controlling weather, heat flow, air leakage, ventilation, security and impact risk. The complete window includes frame, sash or casement, glazing, seals, ironmongery, trickle ventilators where specified, fixings, sill and perimeter interfaces.



Figure 1 – Principal residential window families shown as complete assemblies.

Classification	Typical choices
Opening	Side-hung, top-hung, bottom-hung, tilt-and-turn, sliding or fixed.
Geometry	Single light, coupled, bay, bow, corner, ribbon or shaped.
Frame	Timber, PVC-U, aluminium, steel or composite.
Glazing	Double, triple, laminated, toughened, patterned, acoustic or solar-control.
Performance	Thermal, airtightness, weather, acoustic, security, ventilation and safety.

KEY PRINCIPLE Use the whole-window performance for the actual configuration where required. Centre-pane glazing values alone do not describe frame, spacer and edge losses.