

# Where Should Low E Glass be Positioned

Technical  
Guide

Low-emissivity glass (or Low E glass) is a type of energy-efficient glass designed to prevent heat escaping out through your windows to the cold outdoors. Low E glazing glass contains a transparent, microscopic coating that improves the thermal efficiency of windows.

Clayton Glass uses Low E glass in most insulated glass units we manufacture, positioned with the coating on the surface facing the cavity, enhancing thermal insulation and reducing energy costs.

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In an insulating glass unit, the Low E coating should be on the cavity surface of the inner pane. Counting the surfaces from the exterior of the building, the Low E coating should be on surface 3. However, surface 2 is also acceptable if the other position is unavailable.

The thermal transmittance (U-Value) of Low E glass performs equally well, regardless of whether it is on surface 2 (the cavity surface of the outer pane) or surface 3 (the cavity surface of the inner pane). But surface 3 is recommended as it does impact the optical effects and is the industry standard.

Other glass types also favour the inner pane, and when used in conjunction with Low E glass, a decision is needed on which is the priority on surface 3. Texture glass is an example of when Low E glass is better placed on surface 2. Texture glass must be on the inner pane to avoid the buildup of dirt and moss. In this instance, positioning Low E glass on surface 2 would not lower the U-Value and optical effects are masked by the presence of the obscured pane.

Clayton Glass will always advise surface 3 as the optimal position for Low E glass. However, other factors may mean the unit is glazed differently without impacting thermal performance.