

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.

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.