

Choosing the Right Glass

The following information is a brief overview. We encourage you to search the Internet for more information.

Monolithic Glass

- **What is it?** Monolithic glass is simple a single sheet of solid glass that may be in either a raw (annealed) state or a tempered (safety glass) state
- **What choices do I have?** On Fleetwood products the typical choices include: 1/8", 3/16", 1/4" and 1/2" thick and a variety of tints, such as Bronze, Green, Grey and Blue.

Low E Glass

- **What is it?** Low E is a brief reference to low emissivity glass. Low E is essentially an invisible metallic coating on a sheet of monolithic glass in order to enhance energy efficiency. In most cases the Low E glass must be part of an insulated glass unit wherein the coating is trapped in the air space to prevent it from corrupting.
- **What choices do I have?** The glass industry is rapidly changing so we invite you to contact one of our dealers to discuss current offerings and which is best for your home.

Insulated Glass

- **What is it?** Insulated glass is joining multiple lites of monolithic glass into a single piece of glass with an air space.
- **What choices do I have?** Thousands of choices. Contact one of our dealers for more information.

Laminated Glass

- **What is it?** Laminated glass is basically two sheets of monolithic glass, which were joined to a special plastic interlayer. This glass has amazing security benefits because it is difficult to break though and it also offers exceptional sound AND ultraviolet ray protection.
- **What choices do I have?** You can choose insulated or monolithic lites. The glass industry is rapidly changing so we invite you to contact one of our dealers to discuss current offerings and which is best for your home.

What is SHGC?

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) is a measurement of short wave radiation (direct sunlight) through the window/door. The lower the value the more of the sun's rays are deflected away from the inside of the house.

What is VLT?

Visible Light Transmittance is a measurement of how much natural light comes through the glass. The higher the number the brighter the result.

What is U-Value?

The U-Factor, commonly referred to as the "U-Value" gives the rate of heat transfer through the window. This is measured from inside to outside when it is cold, and from outside to inside when it is hot and is based on per unit area and per unit temperature difference. The lower the U-factor, the less heat energy escapes your home in the winter. In other words, U-Value is NOT a value to consider if you want direct heat from the sun or if you want to avoid that direct heat (short wave radiation.) The SHGC is the value to be considered in such matters.

What is the NFRC?

The National Fenestration Rating Council is a pseudo government body that offers regulation for the window and door industry.

What about custom energy reports?

Fleetwood windows and doors are tested to the NFRC standards BUT these standards are based on tested sizes which are much smaller than the windows and doors being purchased. Because the glass often out performs the aluminum frame Fleetwood's software engineers will create a custom report based on the ACTUAL sizes being purchased. The factory is using the same software that the NFRC used on the smaller sizes.