

Quality of vision double glazing

Double glazing provides a high standard of vision. The following is a guide to the quality to expect



How to do a professional check

Stand in the room no less than 2 metres away from the panes and look directly through them. For toughened, laminated or coated glasses, stand no less than 3 metres away. Do so in natural daylight, but not in direct sunlight.

Exclude from the check the 50mm wide band around the edge of the glass.

What to expect

Flat transparent glass, including laminated or toughened (tempered) glass is acceptable if the following are neither obtrusive nor bunched:

- bubbles or blisters,
- hairlines or blobs,
- fine scratches not more than 25mm long,
- minute particles.

The obtrusiveness of blemishes is judged by looking through the glass, not at it, under natural light.



Special glasses

Toughened glass may show visual distortions which are accentuated by reflections in double glazing. Such surface colourations and patterns do not indicate a change in physical performance.

Laminated glass may have a few more blemishes due to it being made of several layers.

Low emissivity coating may produce transient visual effects. In oblique lighting the coating may look like a transparent film. When light coloured objects such as net curtains are placed close to the glazing they will look slightly darker.

Double refraction

This occurs in certain light conditions. It is caused by multiple surface reflections in double glazing which may vary from pane to pane.

Brewster's Fringes - the rainbow effect

Small transitory rainbow effects are sometimes produced by the glass deflecting light. Their appearance is due to the high quality flat glass sheets being placed parallel to each other.

Patterned glass

The above does not apply to patterned glass as its manufacturing process is different.