

Retrofitting double glazing – Lois' kitchen and toilet windows

Here at Beacon we try to practise what we preach! As several of us live in older homes, the issue of whether or not to retrofit double glazing has been extensively discussed. I have tried different options with varying success and it's worth talking about what we've found good or not, and why we made the decisions we did.

Factors to consider

- **What are you trying to achieve?** (warmth, sound, saving furniture from sun, overall maintenance upgrade) This impacts on your glass and frame choices.
- **What is your wider upgrade plan?** Have you already done your ceiling and underfloor insulation? If not, that's your priority! Are you considering wall insulation too? (YES do it for warmth and energy savings!)
- **Current and ongoing window maintenance** – this impacts on your frame choices
- **Is aesthetics important?** You might be prepared to spend more on a front of house picture window than on a toilet window facing your back yard.
- **Your total budget envelope** - remember you don't need to do all your windows at once.

My kitchen and toilet windows

The kitchen had some non-original wooden sliding windows and our toilet had old louvre windows. Both of these were very draughty and were at the back of the house so aesthetics were less important.

We replaced these with cheaper double glazed aluminium inserts in the existing window frame. While these don't look as nice as character windows, they are probably better from a maintenance perspective. Again low emissivity argon filled glass was used.

It cost only \$400 for the toilet window, and \$1300 for the kitchen window. We paid slightly extra (\$80 for the big window) for including low E glass; however, this has big thermal benefits, upping the R value from R0.26 to R0.31.



My choices would look like this:

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|----------------------|---|
| Location | Kitchen and Toilet Non-original wooden sliding windows at the back of the house; louvre in toilet |
| Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Warmth in winter ▪ Fewer draughts ▪ Ease of maintenance ▪ Good summer ventilation |
| Wider upgrade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ceiling and under floor insulation ▪ Rangehood |
| Maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Important – will be easier to maintain ▪ Dry rot in the kitchen window sill was also replaced. |
| Aesthetics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not important |
| Budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$400 (toilet) ▪ \$1300 (kitchen) |
| Choices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frame: secondary glazing option putting aluminium inserts into wooden frames ▪ Glass: low e; bubble glass in toilet ▪ Fly screens |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easier to maintain ▪ Improved warmth - R0.31 ▪ Less draughty (especially replacing louvres) ▪ Fly screens |

For more information:

- See Fact sheets on
 - Keeping heat in: Windows
- For a discussion of double and secondary glazing, visit www.smarterhomes.org.nz/design/glazing/double-glazing-glass-options/#toc_3.