

The Energy Efficiency of our Duette Range of Blinds

– *Beautiful and practical*

Adding energy-efficient window treatments can be the most effective investment you make to control your utility bill. And while you're doing what's practical, we can help you do what's stylish, adding long-lasting value to your home.

Understanding R-value

Building materials are assigned an R-value according to the product's ability to resist heat movement. The higher the R-value the better it insulates your home. Most windows have an R-value of 0.9 to 3.0 and can be responsible for 40 to 70 percent of heat or cold transfer for an entire home. The heat loss or gain at your home's windows is impacted by the following:

- **Window properties.** Window frames are typically metal, wood or vinyl. The R-value of a metal frame can be 5 to 20 percent lower than a wood or vinyl frame window. A single layer of uncovered window glass has an R-value of 1.75. Advances in glass coatings and assembly methods are improving the energy performance of new windows but a window's age, quality of construction, and the condition of sashes, weather stripping and caulking will impact how much air infiltrates or escapes your home.
- **Window square footage.** Windows make up 20 percent of the typical home exterior and 40 percent in contemporary construction. Numerous large, uncovered windows can break your energy budget when they're on a cold north exposure in winter or a sun-saturated west wall in summer.
- **Window coverings.** Heat moves towards cold. In the winter it's drawn to cold glass to escape your home (see illustration below). In the summer outdoor heat moves toward the windows of your air-conditioned home. The white exterior backing on the Duette fabric reflects the sun. Using layers and cellular construction treatments at your windows can increase R-value by 1 to nearly 5 points. In extreme climates, that could save more money than you would spend to install windows with higher energy efficiency.

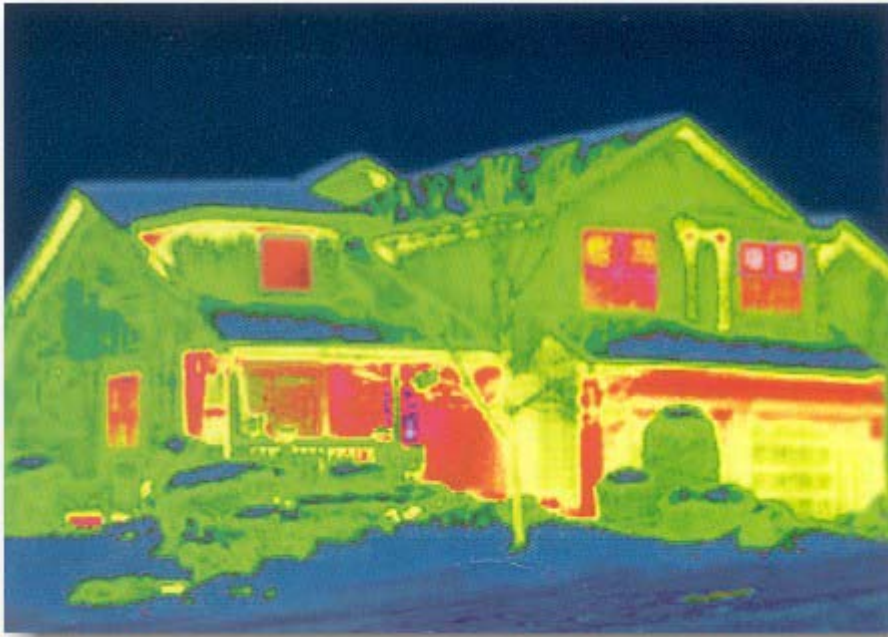


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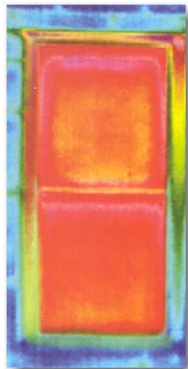
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Best of the Best in Energy Efficiency

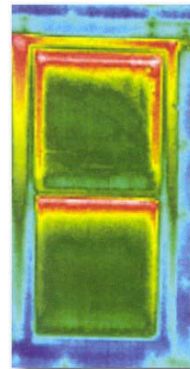


Most of your home's energy is lost through windows as shown in the thermal imaging photo above. The areas in red show where a home loses the most energy.

All window coverings help defend your home against summer heat and winter cold. The design, materials and construction of the window coverings discussed here enable you to make a more significant contribution to energy efficiency.



No window covering on this window at all.



The same window covered by Duette

Duette honeycomb shades, were developed in response to the energy crisis, increase energy values at the window by 25 to 175 percent, depending upon thickness in the air-trapping construction.

Duette has earned the highest **energy-efficiency rating** in the industry and ranks as a best-selling fabric. Shades come in opaque, semi-opaque or sheer fabrics in many colours.

Show Me the Savings

Energy efficient window treatments help you to:

- Cut heat loss in winter and increase your home's cosy comfort as they slow the escape of warm air. Window treatments act as insulation, covering glass to keep warm air inside (see illustration below).
- Cut infiltration of solar heat, the single largest contributor to the workload of your home's cooling system.
- Save money on utilities and save the natural resources used to generate energy.
- Save your interior fabrics, furnishings and woods from fading and deterioration.



Ultraviolet Light: Your Home Needs Sunscreen

Sunscreen protects our skin from damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays. Window treatments can do the same for your home's interior.

We love light-filled rooms, but UV rays will eventually fade floors, furniture, upholstery, draperies and treasured artwork. Homeowners need UV control, especially in winter when the sun reaches further into our rooms to damage:

- **Art.** While we like to look at artwork in natural light, UV exposure can destroy our treasures.
- **Textiles.** Prolonged exposure causes natural, un-dyed fabrics to yellow. It weakens fibres, making them look prematurely old and worn.
- **Wood.** Sunlight will fade the sections of wood flooring and sides of wood furniture that it reaches, creating uneven colouring. Wood grain can expand with UV exposure, sometimes splitting open due to heat and dryness.

When closed there's 99 percent UV blockage with our Duette fabric.

Furniture Shouldn't have Tan Lines!

Just as sunscreen protects our skin from the sun's damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays, window treatments protect our room interiors. Left unprotected for a prolonged period of time, our possessions will succumb to premature aging. That means our wood floors will bleach and dry out and the colour will fade from our paintings and Oriental rugs.



Duette filters out 99% of the sun's harmful UV rays when closed over double-glazed glass windows.

Shading for Summer Comfort

When heat is intense outdoors, solar gain is a consideration and energy talk turns to a product's **shading coefficient** (SC). The SC measures effectiveness at blocking solar heat. The lower the number, the better the product is at preventing heat gain. A standard double-pane window might have an SC of about .89, while the SC on a single-pane is about 1.0.

A window treatment that reduces heat by 80 percent has a shading coefficient of .20. Duette fabrics have one of the lowest and best **shading coefficients**.

Even before prices at the pump reached record highs and analysts began predicting equally high prices for the cost of heating oil and natural gas this winter, you probably had your eye on finding ways to conserve energy. Now, more than ever, these window treatments can help you enjoy considerable utility bill savings.

Because heat naturally moves toward cold surfaces, such as glass windows in the winter, experts calculate that almost 40 percent of all heat inside a home unnecessarily escapes this way. The cells of a honeycomb shade actually trap the cold air, decreasing the intensity of the temperature as it enters the room. And this, in turn, helps minimise the amount of heat that's drawn toward your windows.

In fact, Duette honeycomb shades were the industry's first highly energy efficient window coverings, **developed in 1985** in response to the energy crisis of the late 1970s.

Saving The Planet (and Your Hard-Earned Energy Pounds)

Let's first consider some arresting numbers: 40% of the heat that escapes from your home leaves through the windows. And 50% of the solar heat that enters a room comes in through - you guessed it - the windows. Obviously, energy efficient treatments can translate into considerable utility bill savings, especially if your windows are on a cold north exposure in the winter or a sun-saturated west wall in the summer.

The most energy efficient treatments feature a **honeycomb construction**. The cells actually trap the hot or cold air, decreasing the intensity of the temperature as it enters the room.

Rising energy costs are affecting everyone's wallet. Sunny windows make air conditioners work two to three times harder. In colder seasons, heat lost through windows can account for 10 to 25% of your heating bill.

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