



Window tinting and reducing UVR exposure



There are three types of UV radiation, UVA, UVB and UVC. Only UVA and UVB reach the earth's surface and have the potential to cause skin and eye damage. Both UVA and UVB exposure increase your risk of developing skin cancer.

UV radiation through glass

All types of commercial and car window glass block the majority of UVB radiation. However, the amount of UVA radiation transmission depends on the type of glass. The thickness of the glass can make a difference to how much UV radiation gets through.

Car windscreens and windows

The level of UV radiation inside a car will vary and depends on whether windows are open, and the position of the sun in relation to the vehicle.

The amount of UV radiation inside the vehicle can range from 4% to 50% of the ambient radiation outside the vehicle.

Clear or tinted films and fabric window covers can reduce the amount of UV radiation by 99%. The amount of protection varies with different products. They only provide protection against UV radiation when windows are closed.

Film and tint applied to car windows must meet state or territory regulations. Queensland laws determine the darkest legal tint you can have on your car windows.

Car windows stop a lot of UV radiation, but if you spend a lot of time in a vehicle, you should also use sun protection. This will protect you while you are in and out of the vehicle. This includes:

- Long-sleeved shirts or driving sleeves
- Sunglasses
- Broad spectrum SPF30+ sunscreen or higher.

Glass on buildings & houses

The UV radiation that comes through the windows of houses and buildings is generally only a small risk to the people inside. If you spend a lot of time close to a window or have a photosensitive skin disorder, you may be more at risk. The amount of UV radiation that gets through building glass depends on the type of glass. Laminated building glass reduces transmission of UVA radiation completely. Tempered building glass allows 71.6% of UVA radiation transmission. Smooth annealed building glass allows 74.3% of UVA radiation transmission. Windows under deep eaves, verandas or awnings have lower levels of transmission of UV radiation. The tinting of windows on houses and buildings can also reduce the UV radiation.