

BUYER'S GUIDE

From different styles and materials to functionality and benefits, here's all you need to know about windows

Windows have come a long way from being mere holes in the walls that let light and air into the house. Today, they are a very important element in the overall architecture of the house and play a key role when it comes to the inte-

riors. Advances in glass technology, frame materials and manufacturing techniques mean that today, a window with its component parts such as glass, frame and fittings offers almost limitless permutations and combinations that create a dream home.



VIKRAM KHANNA
CMO, CIO, Asahi
India Glass (AIS), Delhi
www.aisglass.com

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SHOW WINDOWS

Picture or show windows look great and bring in lots of natural light in the room

A GLASS APART

Glass, by nature, is a flexible material, and lends itself easily to any shape. This coupled with the different types of profiles, uPVC, wood and aluminium, means that you can now turn your windows into design statements.

TYPES OF WINDOWS

Gone are the days when all windows looked the same. Today you can choose from a very wide spectrum of windows. The top three choices are as follows. A casement window is side-hinged to its frame so that it swings both ways. Arched windows have a curve at the top that adds softness to a room. Multi-panel bay windows are designed such that the windows project outward, letting in more natural light and making a room feel larger than it is. There are of course, many other styles, such as the classic French windows, or the modern tilt and turn windows, sliding windows, top hung or bottom hung windows and even clerestory windows that are installed near the roof line for additional day-lighting of the interiors. A trend that has caught on in recent times is that of the window-wall, where entire walls are built and/or replaced with curtain windows or large window panels that instantly elevates the interiors with its view.

FUNCTION MEETS FORM

Windows fulfil more than just an aesthetic need. While looking contemporary they also offer many functional benefits. They can be fitted with solar-control glass like AIS Ecosense for instance, that don't just help you save on electricity bills but also help keep your interiors warm in

winter and cool in summer. If safety and security⁷ is your priority, then you can fit your windows with burglar-resistance AIS Securityglas, which is a type of laminated glass that prevents breaking and intrusion. The best part, today's modern windows can offer you a combination of two or more of these benefits. All of this without sacrificing on the look and aesthetic appeal of your windows.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

Gone are the days when you or your architect or designer had

to chase a carpenter or a fabricator. Today, there are brands and firms that specialise in windows and doors; that offer end-to-end, professional window solutions bringing together the material of your choice (be it uPVC, wood or aluminium), with the best in glass products and hardware fittings. Before making a choice on your windows provider, it is recommended you check if the brand delivers true 360-degree solutions, design consultation, glass and frame selection, installation and most importantly, post-installation support.

With the right choice of design and functionality, windows can truly make any house a contemporary landmark, and ensure comfort and peace for the people who live within.



MAXIMISE THE VIEW

The best way to bring the outside inside is through a window. So either place a series of small windows together (below); or a floor to ceiling one (left) to enjoy verdant vistas or a serene water body



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