

Secondary Glazing

Simple Solutions for Saving Energy: No. 6

Having double glazing installed is expensive, and may be unsuitable for some homes. Secondary glazing - where an additional pane is added to the inside of existing windows - is less costly but can really improve thermal efficiency. There are many types of secondary glazing - this guide tells you about two types which can be easily fitted at home.

1. Temporary Secondary Glazing Film

This is a cheap and very simple product for which can be fitted for the winter, and then removed when the weather gets warmer.

What do I need?

Secondary glazing film kit (plastic film and double sided sticky tape - available from DIY/hardware stores), scissors, cloth and detergent or white spirit, hair dryer.

How do I fit secondary glazing film?

1. Measure the window frame, allowing an extra 2 – 3 cm at each side.
2. Cut film to the correct size using scissors.
3. Clean the frame thoroughly with the cloth and white spirits to remove dirt, dust and grease (which can stop the tape from sticking).
4. Fix sticky tape all around the frame, including in between panes. Press down firmly. Take special care at corners to make sure there are no gaps (gaps will prevent the film from being air tight.)
5. Peel off the backing tape to expose the sticky surface.
6. Starting at the top, stretch the film across the width of the window and carefully stick it to the tape. Work your way down, making sure the film is as straight as possible. (An extra pair of hands is useful!) Run your finger over where the tape is to ensure the film is stuck firmly.
7. Now for the fun bit! Use the hair dryer to blow hot air over the film. The heat will cause the film to shrink and become taut.

Voila - One shrink-wrapped, energy efficient window!



2. Magnetic Secondary Glazing

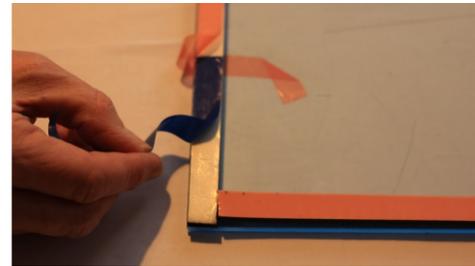
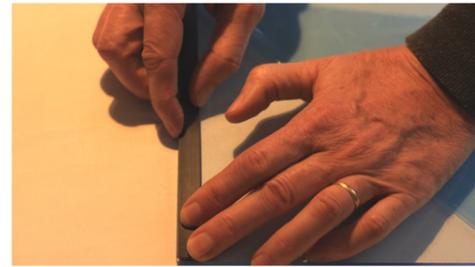
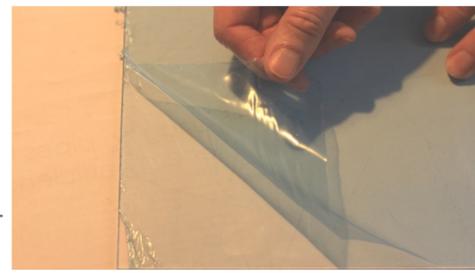
This can be easily taken on and off for cleaning, to open windows, or during the summer months.

What do I need? Tape measure, cloth and detergent or white spirit, pencil, scissors, sheets of 2mm thick Perspex cut to size, rolls of self-adhesive magnetic tape (make sure you get the type that will stick to itself).

What do I do?

1. Measure the window frame on the inside. Allow about 2cm extra around each side.
2. Order your Perspex sheets (it can be difficult to cut at home).
3. Clean the window frame thoroughly to remove dirt, dust and grease.
4. Measure lengths of magnetic tape to fit around the edges of your Perspex. Remove the backing and stick the strips firmly in place around the edges of the sheet.
5. Cut out a second set of lengths of magnetic tape. Place these on top of the first set of tape so that they are held in place by magnetism, and the backing strip is upper most.
6. Peel off the backing to reveal the sticky surface.
7. Carefully place the Perspex over the window and press firmly so that the second set of magnetic tape affixes to the window frame. The sheet itself is held up by the magnets.

Need more help? For online how-to videos, go to www.youtube.com and search "DIY secondary glazing".



To find out more about improving your home's energy efficiency please visit www.environmentcentre.com or contact: DIY@environmentcentre.com ~ 0800 804 8601
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Approximate costs

Magnetic glazing ~ £30 - £50 per window

Temporary film ~ £7 for 6m²