Questions about Window Energy Performance?

NFRC has the Answers

The National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) rates the energy performance of windows, doors, and skylights. These ratings can be a valuable tool, much like the miles-per-gallon sticker on a new car, because they can help you to:

- Compare different products on an apples-to-apples basis.
- Verify that a product will perform as the manufacturer claims.
- Make an informed choice about an expensive product that will stay in your home for many years.

A Source You Can Trust

NFRC ratings are fair, accurate, and credible because the rating system is independent – manufacturers have no say over how their products are rated. That's why the federal government and energy codes in many states and local jurisdictions encourage homeowners (and builders and contractors too) to purchase only NFRC-rated products.

The color, frame, price, warranty, and a dozen other things are up to you. But when it comes to energy performance, NFRC can be a powerful partner as you search for the perfect window, door, or skylight for your home.

A Valuable Online Resource

One way to find NFRC-rated products is to look for the NFRC label (see back for more information).

Since you can't always see the label on products sold in stores. NFRC also makes its ratings available on its website at www.WindowRatings.org. There you can:

- Search the NFRC database to find ratings for the products you're thinking about buying.
- Find answers to the most frequently asked questions about NFRC and the NFRC Label.
- Send you questions about window energy performance to experts at NFRC.

This information is brought to you by:

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Understanding the NFRC Label

This image mirrors the four sections of the certified NFRC Label, providing the consumer with visual illustrations of what the label ratings mean. More in-depth information on the NFRC Label and purchasing the best possible windows, visit

www.WindowRatings.org

U-factor measures the heat from INSIDE a room that can escape. The lower the number the lower the potential for wasted heating expenses.

Visible Transmittance measures how much natural light can come into a room -- a HIGH number means more natural light.

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient measures the amount of OUTDOOR heat that can enter a room. The lower the number, the lower the potential for wasted cooling expenses.

Air Leakage measures how much air will enter a room through the product. The lower the number, the lower the potential for draft through the product.

The NFRC Label

The label on a product presents the results of Independent ratings from NFRC-certified laboratories. Without the NFRC label, the product is not certified.

U-factor measures how well a product prevents heat from escaping a home or building. U-factor ratings generally fall between 0.20 and 1.20. The lower the U-factor, the better a product is at keeping heat in. U-factor is particularly important during the winter heating season. This label displays U-factor in U.S. units. Labels on products sold in markets outside the United States may display U-factor in metric units.

Visible Transmittance (VT) measures how much light comes through a product. VT is expressed as a number between 0 and 1. The higher the VT, the higher the potential for daylighting.

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) measures how well a product blocks heat from the sun. SHGC is expressed as a number between 0 and 1. The lower the SHGC, the better a product is at blocking unwanted heat gain. Blocking solar heat gain is particularly important during the summer cooling season.

Air Leakage (AL) measures how much outside air comes into a home or building through a product. AL rates typically fall in a range between 0.1 and 0.3. The lower the AL, the better a product is at keeping air out. AL is an optional rating, and manufacturers can choose not to include it on their labels. This label displays AL in U.S. units. Labels on products sold in markets outside the United States may display AL in metric units.

NFRC administers an independent, uniform rating and labeling system for the energy performance of fenestration products, including windows, curtain walls, doors, and skylights.

For more information on NFRC, please visit our Website at www.nfrc.org or contact NFRC directly at 301.589.1776.