

The practicalities of installing polycarbonate secondary glazing

Secondary glazing, made of polycarbonate sheets held in place with magnetic strips, is a good way of reducing the amount of heat lost through windows. It is much cheaper and less disruptive than installing new windows and allows residents to keep single glazed original sash and case windows.

You may want to consider trying polycarbonate on the windows in the front room first to experience the thermal difference before embarking on other windows.



This polycarbonate sheet is attached to the frame around the window

How does it fix on? It is your choice as to whether the polycarbonate sits on the frame of the window pane or the frame of the window case fixed to the wall.

If you choose the window pane, you will need two sheets per window. The bottom sheet fixes on to the inside and for sash and case the top fixes on to the outside with specialist fixings, if these comply with planning regulations. With this method you can screw the window furniture through the polycarbonate so you can open the window at any time of year.

If you choose to attach to the window case you will need one big sheet which you may want to take off and store during the summer months so you can open the windows. Many tenement flats have a large cupboard

recessed in to the wall which may be a storage solution.

How do I purchase and install? There are a number of companies which sell polycarbonate sheets, we have used [Omega Build](#) in the past. When you order the polycarbonate, it will be cut to your specifications, so be careful to get your measurements right. The polycarbonate with magnetic tape can be delivered to your door, if you ask the supplier. We can provide a quote for our handyman to fix the magnetic tape, polycarbonate and reposition the window furniture if required, however you may want to give this a go yourself. Our [factsheet](#) shows you one way of installing polycarbonate glazing, the factsheet is also available on www.southseeds.org, along with other support to make your home more energy efficient. We found the [film produced by Lambeth Council](#), showing how to install polycarbonate glazing useful. If you can't click through, simply search for polycarbonate glazing on www.youtube.com, you'll find a number of useful guides.

Window furniture can be sourced from ironmongers or hardware shops, such as Crockets on West Nile Street (0141 332 1041 or www.crockets.co.uk). Polished brass sash finger lifts, such as the one on the right can be found for less than £2.



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