

# INSTALLING ROOF WINDOWS IN LOFT CONVERSIONS

**GOT CLIENTS CONVERTING THEIR ATTIC SPACE INTO A NEW ROOM? THEN IT PAYS TO ADVISE THEM ON CHOOSING THE RIGHT ROOF WINDOWS FOR THEIR PROJECT**

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## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A LOFT CONVERSION?

Health research shows that daylight has a positive effect on us; reducing stress, improving our mood and even helping our concentration. Installing roof windows in a loft lets in almost twice as much daylight than a Dormer or vertical window.

What's more, a beautiful and light-filled converted loft room can add as much as up to 20% to a property's value as well as maximising views from the top of the home while giving homeowners a new room or floor. One of the biggest mistakes your client may make, however, is creating a new room that doesn't have enough daylight or free-flowing air. A massive 76% of clients ask Dakea installers for advice on choosing roof windows so it's a good idea to have all the right information to hand to ensure your client's dream of a big, bright and beautiful loft conversion comes true.

## FREQUENTLY-ASKED CLIENT QUESTIONS

### HOW DO I MAKE SURE I HAVE ENOUGH LIGHT?

- Ensure your clients know that when it comes to loft conversions, the larger the room, the larger the roof window needs to be in order to maximise light and create a welcoming space. As a general rule of thumb, the right amount of fresh air and light is achieved with a roof window (or windows) at a ratio of 15-20% glass area to the room's entire floorspace. The more this is reduced, the darker the room will feel. Of course, going beyond this will only improve the room and the expanse of view from the windows. Homeowners may try to cut costs by choosing just one window whereas two could instantly transform the space from gloomy to light-filled so always ensure you get the maths correct.
- Correctly splayed internal roof window reveals (horizontal at the window head, and vertical at the window base) will allow and spread more light within the room.
- There are some exceptions. Where rooms are particularly large or, for instance, L-shaped, you might find more smaller windows are the most effective way to fill the room with light.
- Remember south-facing rooms are likely to receive sunlight throughout the day while north-facing rooms might see little direct sunlight. This means you can use smaller roof windows in south-facing rooms while north-facing rooms may require bigger windows to achieve the same light atmosphere.
- Professionals and homeowners can get the right advice on choosing the best roof window for their project at [Dakea's online window configurator](#). Just input the details of your project and requirements and we will find the right roof window for the job. You can even download a PDF with all the details you need. If you prefer to talk through your requirement do get in touch with our customer support team on 020 3970 5080.

### WHAT VENTILATION DO I NEED?

- Once a loft conversion is fitted, the homeowner will be able to refresh the air throughout their home by simply opening the roof windows in the attic room – so important in times of a pandemic and beyond. Opening windows on different floors means a home will be ventilated throughout as a result of stack ventilation – the movement of air due to rising heat and air buoyancy.
- If you are installing roof windows in a new place, there should be a radiator or heat source under them to aid ventilation.
- The internal reveals on Dakea roof windows, when correctly splayed, with a heat source below will allow warm air to circulate over the window and around the room, thus minimising the possibility of condensation.

### IS IT ENERGY EFFICIENT TO INSTALL ROOF WINDOWS?

- The triple pane construction of the Energy series has brilliant energy efficiency. [Dakea Ultima Energy roof window](#), for example, has a heat transfer coefficient U (w) lower than 1.00 [W / m<sup>2</sup>K], which means it will retain heat generated during winter while not allowing the attic to heat up during the summer.
- Most attic conversions require insulation so that the loft space retains heat and draughts are minimised.
- Remember that using as much natural daylight as possible will also ensure the homeowner relies on electric lighting less which will reduce overall usage and bills.

### GENERAL KNOW-HOW...

- The simplest and quickest way to convert an attic into an extra room is to add the right amount of roof windows, insulation, stairs, electrics and plumbing if needed. Avoid escalating costs by keeping structural alterations to a minimum.
- Dakea roof windows are a straightforward way of adding vital daylight and ventilation to a room. A space is cut in the rafters to make space for the roof window, the frame is then fitted into the existing structure and flashings are added before the surrounding tiling is made good.
- A general rule is “the shallower the pitch of the roof, the taller the roof window”. This is because the optimum height for an uninterrupted view out of a roof window is between 90cm and 200cm. Therefore, as the roof pitch shallows, you will need a taller roof window to give that uninterrupted view.
- Planning permission isn't always necessary to convert a loft. If you're doing a more simple conversion, it's unlikely to be needed. However, if you live in a conservation area or are planning a big conversion, you might need permission. Talk to a professional or your local authority if you're unsure.
- The recommended minimum and maximum installation height of a Dakea roof window (from the base of the window) is 110-140cm for a Dakea Better View high pivot roof window, and 90-130cm for all other Dakea centre pivot roof windows.

### WHY DAKEA ROOF WINDOWS?

- They don't change the appearance of the roof and are less likely to need planning permission.
- Our roof windows open easily and don't require frequent maintenance.
- They have many matching accessories available - choose from [blackout blinds](#), thermal insulation awnings or solar blinds and adjust the level of lighting in the attic room as you wish.
- They reduce noise - the installation of Dakea roof windows from the Ultima series will not only to illuminate the room, but also reduce the incoming noise by up to 50% thanks to the Noise Block system.
- They are easy to clean - Dakea roof windows can be easily turned towards the inside of the room, which will allow you to easily clean the outer pane. Our Ultima Energy windows additionally have a titanium coating, giving it self-cleaning properties.
- The warranty for Dakea windows is 20 years - this is the longest warranty on the market, which proves the quality of our windows.

