

Key consideration	Blade type	Comments
Increased glass safety	Toughened Glass	Toughened glass is around 5 times stronger than un-toughened glass. Not only is it harder to break, but if it does break, it breaks into small fragments with square edges instead of razor-sharp shards of glass. Building codes will require toughened glass in certain situations in the building. Toughening all glass blades is an extra precaution that is available.
	Aluminium	Aluminium obviously do not shatter at all.
Clear views and maximum daylight	Glass - clear	Clear glass will maximise these considerations. Tinted glass can also be very effective with only slight reductions in daylight.
Protection from heat gain due to direct sunlight	Glass - tinted grey or green	Reduces the Solar Heat Gain when protection from direct sunlight is wanted. This will typically be a key consideration on western elevations (as windows facing the west are exposed to hot afternoon sun).
	Aluminium	Aluminium is a solid blade and very effective in this role.
Heat gain from direct sunlight is desirable	Glass - clear	In colder seasons heat gain from sunlight is a very desirable benefit. North facing windows will typically be clear glass to get this free heating benefit from nature.
Privacy	Glass - silkscreen	These glasses are obscure to provide privacy while also letting in daylight while closed.
	Aluminium	Aluminium is a solid blade that will provide complete privacy while closed, but need to be open to provide daylight.
Colour, visual impact	Aluminium	Aluminium blades can be anodised or powder coated to a wide array of colours.
	Aluminium - wood grain finish	Aluminium blades can be finished with a wood grain look powdercoat. This provides the appearance of timber, with the low maintenance of aluminium.