

## Window makeovers that make cents

Budgets are limited at the moment, so home owners want building ideas that deliver major results for minor costs. A common question behind most renovating decisions should be – how can I increase the value of my home, make it run more efficiently and improve our standard of living without breaking the bank?

Window film offers a solution for renovators wanting to inexpensively improve the value and energy efficiency of their home, and reduce running costs. As window film can be retrofit, windows do not need to be removed and replaced to ensure they achieve or exceed government mandated energy requirements. In most cases, retrofit film outperforms tinted or reflective glass in terms of energy efficiency, at a fraction of the cost.

President of the Window Film Association of Australia and New Zealand, Rob Hamilton, comments, “The return on investment of window film is impressive. Case studies show that air conditioning usage has been reduced by as much as 30% after the application of window film.

“This not only creates monthly energy bill savings, it also means less pressure on the conditioner unit, which means less maintenance and a longer lifespan,” Rob said. “These benefits also become environmentally relevant when you consider the amount of power outages caused by air conditioner usage last summer.”

The impact of film on the comfort and usability of a room is also dramatic. Windows without film can account for up to 87% heat gain inside a room, making it stuffy and uncomfortable. Window film can reduce up to 99% UV radiation, 79% total solar energy, 95% infrared heat and 90% glare<sup>1</sup>, all the while letting in natural light. So views can be enjoyed without curtains, blinds or awnings, saving the home owner even more money.

Earlier this year the Torien family from Point Cook, Melbourne, had film installed on the windows in their two-storey home. Mrs Torien said “Our home is so much cooler on hot days, especially upstairs which was the problem area. The film has definitely reduced our energy bills, as we did not have to use the air conditioner regularly this summer at all. We can now watch TV in the daytime without closing the curtains, and we don’t have to constantly close our ensuite blinds for privacy.”

When weighing the financial benefits of film, sun damage is another consideration. Art, photographs, fabrics, woodwork and carpets exposed to natural sunlight will age prematurely and fade. Window film is one of the most effective and attractive ways of prolonging the life of an interior, making every design dollar stretch further.

Visit [www.wfaanz.org.au](http://www.wfaanz.org.au) for more information and a list of installers near you. WFAANZ film manufacturers provide a minimum 10 year warranty, and some even offer a lifetime warranty on residential applications.

### About window film

Window film, or window tint, has come a long way since its introduction in 1961. Advanced technologies mean window films now offer greater variety of shades, colours and performance levels; the best products are guaranteed to survive the harsh Australian climate with scratch resistant coatings for protection and metallic layers for colour stability.

### About WFAANZ

A non-profit organisation, WFAANZ is dedicated to improving the standard of product and installation of window film in Australia and New Zealand. The association sets out performance guidelines for its members.

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<sup>1</sup> Different films have different benefits. Home owners should discuss their needs with an installer for a recommendation of the most suitable product for their requirements