

COME ON
HOME





CONTENT

- 04 Ancient and modern
- 05 Making the right choices
- 06 Respecting the past, embracing the future
- 10 Flush Casement windows
- 14 Putting it all together
- 17 Conservation and planning
- 18 Your options
- 20 The very best of Britain
- 21 Fabrication and installation
- 21 Our standards and your guarantees

ANCIENT AND MODERN

The old

Our architecture is very diverse. As skills and materials developed over the centuries, construction methods changed. Homes became larger, lighter and more comfortable. That's still happening, and it always will, but some building styles have remained perennial favourites. Thatched cottages and timber-framed houses don't just exist in our memory. They, like other heritage homes, are part of our history and our current housing stock. The old is here to stay!

The new

We are living in an era of minimalist style. Clean, simple lines are everywhere, but this isn't new. During the 20th century, many designers embraced new ideas, changing the rules about detail and ornamentation, about light, angles, curves, even about building materials. Unusual homes are everywhere, in our towns and cities, and nestled in the countryside. Architects are drawing plans and homeowners are choosing a different type of home.





MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

When building from scratch or when restoring a property, every part of the project needs to be thought through. Choosing the right windows is as much part of the process as is choosing roofing materials or the position of a staircase. It's not quite so obvious if you're thinking about replacing existing windows, and all too often the choice made is a simple like-for-like swap. Over the years, many historic properties have been ruined with window styles that were never part of their original form. Now, there's no need to compromise. Traditional and minimalist properties can have windows that respect their unique character.

There is, however, more to choosing windows than appearance. The attractions of a special home soon fade when the reality of poor insulation and non-existent security are realised. Another summer holiday spent painting window frames to keep out the autumn rains? No thanks! With the benefits of modern materials and 21st-century glazing technologies, you don't have to live like that.

Comfort matters. Security matters. Ease of maintenance matters. So does taking good care of the planet and the money in your wallet. That's why the right choice is a high-performing, PVC-U flush casement.



RESPECTING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

PVC-U windows in a heritage property?

There are some who would say it should never be done. There are a few, rare, properties where we would agree. But for most homes, PVC-U makes perfect sense. It really is a fantastic building material. Unlike timber, it doesn't warp, swell or rot. Yes, timber can be preserved – with noxious chemicals or with coat after coat of primer and paint. Keeping timber in tip-top condition, in Britain, with our lovely weather, is a constant battle. PVC-U is tough and long lasting, and it needs practically no maintenance.

Another great strength of PVC-U is how it can be moulded. It's possible to recreate the appearance of traditional timber casements, even down to all the details of trims and beading. You can have the same curves, the same colours and textures, the same proportions and the same operation. What you get on top is thermal and acoustic insulation, advanced security and weather protection. By choosing PVC-U flush casements, you're choosing to embrace the future whilst respecting the past.

Perfected design

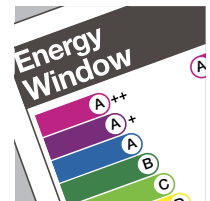
We know that design is critical. If a window doesn't look the part, there's not much point considering how well it performs. We've looked at every tiny detail – the things you'll see on the outside and all the clever stuff that is hidden on the inside. Every proportion and every angle has been carefully chosen. That's why the appearance is spot on.

Safe and sound

These flush casement windows are ready for the most secure locking systems. Forget the idea of a simple catch, we're talking multipoint locks which secure all around the frame. We're talking about impact-resistant profiles, internal glazing, toughened glass wherever it's needed and egress hinges which ensure you've got an escape route in case of emergency.

Energy efficiency

Our Flush Casement windows are made using multi-chambered sections, which harness the insulating qualities of PVC-U. Long-life weatherseals prevent draughts and high performance double glazed units will help to keep your home comfortable all year round. Your traditional home can be your warm and cosy home.









FLUSH CASEMENT WINDOWS

So what exactly is a flush casement?

A casement window is one where the opening pane is held on hinges within a frame. That's all – nothing complicated about it. The design has been around for centuries. They are the most common style of window in the UK, where most of them open outwards. The 'flush' part of the description only means that the opening part of the window doesn't project out from the frame, but lies flush with it.

Flush-type casements are found in some very early properties and the popularity of the style has persisted, right up to the Edwardian era and into modernist and contemporary properties. Over the years, they have been variously plain and simple, or ornamented with finishing trims and feature glazing. A flush casement really is a design classic. And now that they're available with performance to match their good looks, they're guaranteed to remain popular for a very long time.



Sightlines

With a simple window design, every proportion has to be just right. The window's individual components, its sashes, mullions and transoms have to work together to form a perfect whole. The shape is chamfered on the outside to shed the rain – just like the timber originals – and indoors you can enjoy the decorative sculptured shape.

Finishes

Traditional colours relied on natural pigments and minerals. They work well with stone, aged brick, flints and lime-based renders. That's why our colour palette contains a range of finishes specially chosen to suit heritage properties. Alongside those you'll find finishes that replicate the shades and grain of timber. If you want a different finish for inside your home, that's possible too.

Hardware

Window fittings have changed over the years. Mass production has taken over from the skill and craftsmanship of the blacksmith. But for heritage-style windows, maintaining the appearance of traditional fixtures is a must. Even though our Flush Casements have their own friction hinges, we've still got the right type of ironmongery to finish the job.

Period window styles

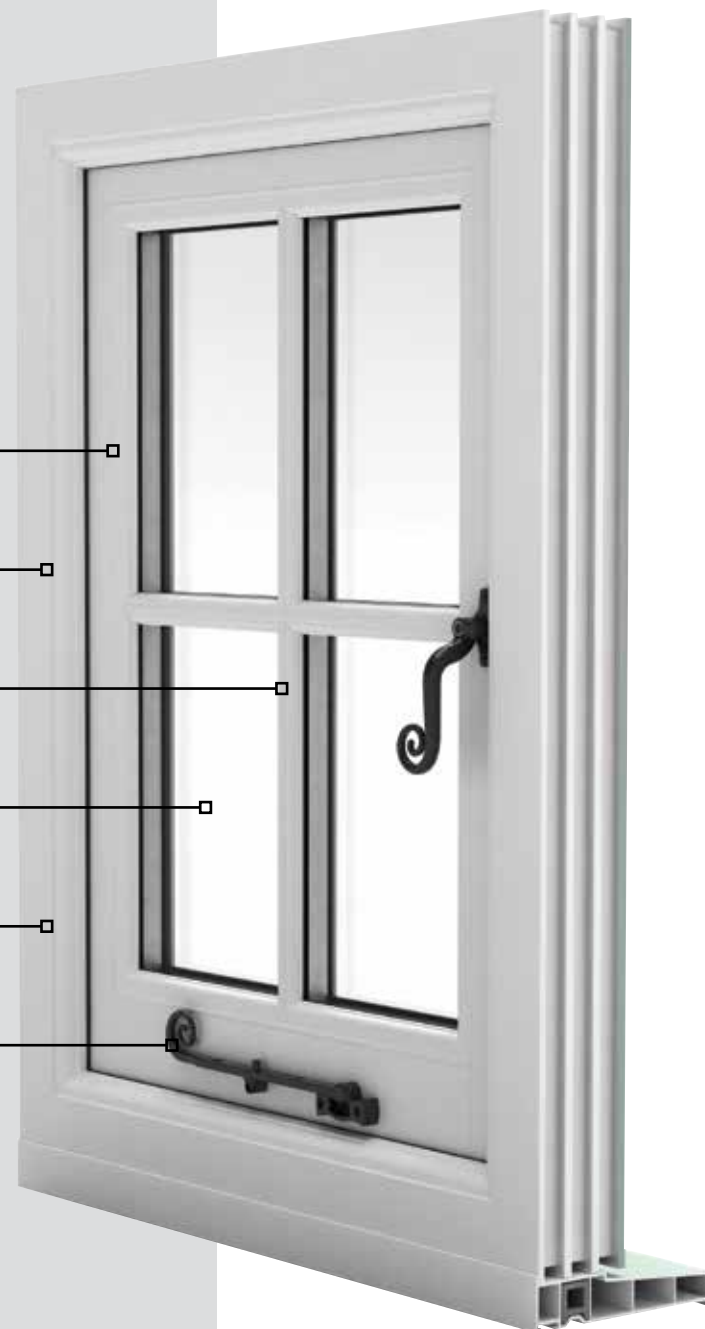
Energy efficiency frames

Georgian bars

Energy efficiency glass

Range of finishes

Styled hardware



“ When we build, let us think that we build for ever. ”

John Ruskin





PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Appearance

Take authentic proportions and pay close attention to every detail. Finish in appropriate colours and use the right hardware. It all adds up to a window that looks every bit as charming and appropriate as a timber original. That means you can be confident that the window will enhance your home's appearance, preserve its character and look perfectly at home in its surroundings. We know that the architects, craftsmen and designers of the past were proud of their art. These windows are our tribute to them

Performance

We're not looking at the past through rose-tinted glasses. We know that living conditions were tough, that houses were frequently cold, damp and draughty, and that security was rudimentary at best. Even if you live in a traditional or period home, we don't expect that you want to live exactly like our ancestors did. You don't need to when our Flush Casements can reach 21st-century standards of energy efficiency, durability and security.







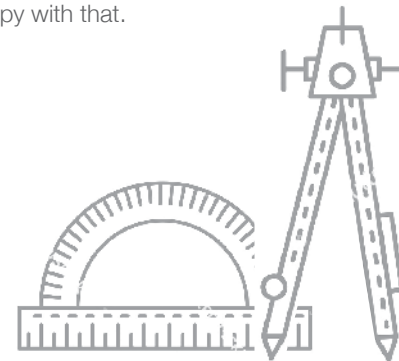
CONSERVATION AND PLANNING

It is possible that your property has listed status or is in a conservation area. We can't give you a definitive answer about whether you'll be able to use our PVC-U windows to restore or renovate your home.

That decision, ultimately, has to be made by your planning authority, but unlike a few years ago, when the idea of using PVC-U windows would have been greeted with a definite "no", the tide is turning in favour of these extremely practical windows. This is because our windows are designed specifically to suit these types of properties and are now virtually indistinguishable from timber.

In addition to this, PVC-U is more affordable than some timber alternatives. It means that properties in a poor state of repair, looking tired and neglected, can be improved without huge expense. What's more, their ease of maintenance, recyclability and insulating qualities mean that PVC-U windows are, genuinely, a planet-friendly alternative.

More and more planners are realising the benefits of PVC-U and now any concerns about appearance have been quashed. Our Flush Casements can be mechanically jointed to mimic timber frame construction. They can be finished in foils that replicate the knots and grain of timber and they have the all-important proportions and features. The truth is that PVC-U doesn't have to look like PVC-U, and most forward-thinking planners are happy with that.



YOUR OPTIONS

Flush Casements have been around for a long time and in many guises. We've chosen a range of ironmongery, finishes, glazing and accessories which will allow you to recreate the perfect window with the right period details for your home.



Shape

The clean chamfered lines of our Flush Casement are ideal for outside, and inside you can enjoy a more detailed finish with gently sculptured curves.



Colours

Colour is really important. That's why we offer such an extensive choice. Fashions have changed and for a truly authentic look, you may need something surprisingly dark to work with a timber framed house, or for a coastal property, something bright and fresh. You may need the look of natural oak, or for modern properties a deep, flat-textured grey. We can't tell you what to choose, but we can offer all the choice you want, including some very smart dual-colour options.



Hardware

Our hardware includes peg stays and monkey-tail handles with a choice of traditional finishes. The more modern-looking components, friction hinges and locking mechanisms are all neatly tucked out of the way.





Georgian bars

Originally designed to hold individual small panes together, georgian bars have long been a feature of period window styles. Our georgian bars are affixed securely to the outer surface of the glass, indoors and out. You get the efficiency of a single glazing unit and the small-paned appearance that your home needs. We've even got different sizes of georgian bar to get the proportions exactly right for your home.



Weatherbars

Some timber casements included weather bars. These were both decorative and functional helping to shed rainwater. Even though our frames don't need the extra weatherproofing, our system includes weatherbars. Authenticity of appearance shouldn't be compromised.



Glazing

There are both practical and aesthetic considerations to make when choosing your glazing, but really when thinking about appearance, nothing is off limits. You can choose stained glass, leaded lights or etched panes. Of course, plain and simple works well, too!

Our Flush Casement system is designed to work with 24mm double glazing. Without getting too technical, the actual energy efficiency depends on the way that the glazing unit is constructed and on the overall glass to frame ratio. We're happy to give more information when we know a bit more about your home and its window dimensions but, right now, we'll just say that our Flush Casement system has been designed to achieve fantastic levels of insulation.

THE VERY BEST OF BRITAIN

The Spectus story is now almost 40 years old. Since our earliest days, we've been committed to manufacturing in Great Britain and our stance on that remains the same.

We produce windows and doors designed to suit British homes, our building methods and our unpredictable weather. To us, doing that at home makes sense.

We're part of the respected Epwin Group now, specialists in low-maintenance building products and every part of our operation, from our product development team to our warehousing facilities, is based in the UK, supporting jobs and our economy. We don't see the need to import when our skills, technology, attitude and approach are world class.





FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION

The Spectus design team are amongst the industry's very best. That's demonstrated in window systems that perform at all levels – for the homeowner, for the installer and for the fabricator. By getting every detail correct, even on the parts of a frame that you will never see, we make things easier for everyone. Our windows stand the test of time and look as good years down the line as they do on the day that they are installed.

We understand that your home is special. It may be centuries old and have settled into all sorts of unusual angles. It may have irregular dimensions and window apertures that aren't 'true'. It happens. But the good news is that our Flush Casement system includes all the extra bits and bobs that installers need to ensure a perfect fit for a protected and weatherproof home.

OUR STANDARDS AND YOUR GUARANTEES

All of our window systems are approved by the British Standards Institute and meet all the requirements of the Building Regulations and Secured By Design. We work to internationally-recognised standards: ISO 9001 for Quality Management and ISO 14001 for our environmental policies. Our operation was one of the first in the UK to receive the BES 6001 award for responsible sourcing of its materials. Our investment programme never ceases, and even though we've already reached exceptional standards of quality and performance, we'll keep on driving standards higher.

Our products are fully guaranteed for ten years including all aspects of manufacturing, parts and labour.



