

THE HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE · 2026 EDITION

uPVC vs Aluminium vs Flush Casement.

A clear side-by-side guide to performance, sightlines, security, maintenance and the right fit for your property.

PREPARED BY OUR SURVEY TEAM
8 pages · Free · No sign-up required

SOUTH EAST WINDOWS & DOORS

CERTASS registered · 10-year guarantee · Insurance-backed guarantee

INTRODUCTION

Choosing between three distinct window styles.

Every week we survey homes where the owner already knows they want new windows but is not sure which range is right. This guide summarises the practical differences we discuss on site. Every window we install is A+ energy rated, PAS 24 security tested and backed by an insurance-backed guarantee. The key differences are sightlines, colour flexibility, maximum pane size and architectural character.

THE 30-SECOND ANSWER

Choose uPVC if...

Your openings are standard-sized and you want strong thermal performance with a broad foil-finish palette, including anthracite, Chartwell green, cream and woodgrains.

Choose aluminium if...

You have large glazed openings, want slim sightlines, or need a bespoke RAL colour with optional different finishes inside and out.

Choose flush casement if...

Your property is period, listed, in a conservation area or an AONB. The flush sash and mechanical joints convincingly replicate painted timber joinery.

The specifications, in one table.

Actual U-values and finish options vary by profile. This table reflects the systems we install day to day.

Feature	uPVC	Aluminium	Flush casement
Best for	Modern and period homes	Contemporary builds; large apertures	Period, cottage and listed homes
Frame sightlines	Standard (about 70mm)	Slim (about 55mm)	Slim, timber-look
Maximum pane size	Up to about 1.8m tall	Up to about 3m tall	Up to about 1.8m tall
U-value (as low as)	1.2 W/m ² K	1.2 W/m ² K	1.3 W/m ² K
A+ energy rating	Yes	Yes	Yes
PAS 24 security	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colour choice	20+ foil finishes	Any RAL; dual colour	Heritage foil palette
Different inside/outside colour	Selected options	Yes	Selected options
Conservation-area suitability	Case by case	Rarely approved	Often suitable
Maintenance	Wipe clean	Wipe clean	Wipe clean
Guarantee	10-year insurance-backed	20-year finish and structural	10-year colour-fastness

THE RANGE

uPVC — the all-rounder.

The most-installed window material in the UK and a versatile choice for both modern and period homes.

What it is made of

Multi-chamber polymer profile with internal reinforcement, gasket seals and welded corners. Finishes are foil-laminated for UV and colour stability.

Where it shines

Standard-sized openings, dependable thermal performance and projects needing traditional casement or sash proportions with a broad finish palette.

Where to look elsewhere

Very large openings and contemporary schemes where the slimmest possible sightline is central to the design.

THE RANGE

Aluminium — architectural glass.

Thermally broken aluminium frames pair slim sightlines with large panes for extensions, new builds and contemporary retrofits.

What it is made of

Extruded aluminium profile with a polyamide thermal break, powder-coated in any RAL colour. Corners are mechanically jointed for a clean line.

Where it shines

Large openings, different colours inside and out, and projects coordinated with aluminium bifolds or sliding doors. Slim frames maximise glass and daylight.

Where to look elsewhere

Conservation areas and listed properties where traditional joinery is expected.

THE RANGE

Flush casement — heritage character.

A flush-set sash that mimics traditional painted timber while using a modern engineered core.

What it is made of

A uPVC or timber-alternative profile where the opening sash sits level with the outer frame, with mechanical corner joints and deep woodgrain finishes.

Where it shines

Conservation areas, AONBs, listed buildings and cottage-style properties where authentic proportions and painted-joinery character matter.

Where to look elsewhere

Very contemporary properties where slim aluminium framing is the design brief.

COMMON QUESTIONS

The questions we are asked most often.

These answers cover the practical differences that tend to shape a homeowner's decision.

Which is more energy-efficient?

All three ranges are A+ rated and can achieve strong whole-window U-values with the correct glazing specification. Day-to-day comfort depends on the complete unit and quality of installation.

When should I choose aluminium?

Aluminium is especially well suited to large panes, contemporary elevations, slim sightlines and bespoke RAL finishes.

Will flush casements suit a conservation area?

Flush casements are often well suited to conservation areas and listed properties. Approval remains property-specific, so planning requirements should always be checked.

Can I mix window types on the same house?

Yes. A common combination is flush casements to the front for heritage character and uPVC or aluminium to the rear for larger glazed openings.

How long do the windows last?

All three are designed for long service with routine cleaning and maintenance. The exact lifespan depends on exposure, operation and care.

Are all three ranges secure?

Yes. We specify PAS 24 tested windows with multi-point locking and laminated-glass options. Security depends on the complete system and installation quality, not frame material alone.

NEXT STEPS

Book a free on-site survey.

The best way to choose between the ranges is to see samples at your property. We will measure your openings, discuss appearance and performance, and prepare a detailed written quotation without pressure.

- 1** Request your free survey online or by phone.
- 2** A senior surveyor visits, measures and shows you samples.
- 3** You receive a detailed written quotation and specification.
- 4** We manufacture, install and hand over — typically 4-6 weeks from order.

Every project is surveyed, manufactured and installed by experienced teams. uPVC and flush casement installations include a 10-year guarantee and insurance-backed guarantee. Aluminium finish guarantees depend on the selected system.