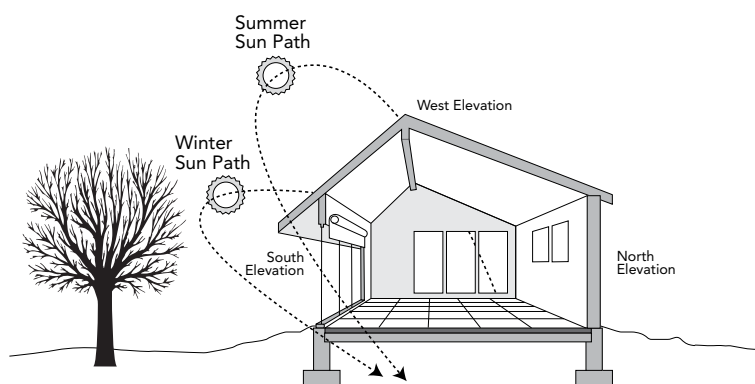


Why Choose Different Types of Glass?



Many homeowners have heard that they should have insulated glass units with Lo-E coatings and argon gas. However, there is no single type of Lo-E. There is a broad range of Lo-E coatings available that have very different purposes. Different elevations (sides) of your home are subject to different amounts of sunlight throughout the year.

Objectives by Elevation in North America:

North: Maximize R-value for insulation. Minimal opportunity for solar gain due to the sun's southern path in the winter.

South: Maximize solar heat gain and visible light. Because the winter sun's path travels low in the sky, you can take advantage of its heat in cold winter months. Roof overhangs and deciduous trees can protect from overheating in the summer.

Note: True passive solar design includes considerations such as glass area, room size, and a heat collection system.

East: Aim for a mid-range product. Increase the R-value for insulation and allow solar heat blocking in the summer, without compromising visible light.

West: Control solar heat gain. In the summer, the sun's path travels higher in the sky, and will primarily affect West-facing glass in the afternoon. Minimize solar heat gain to avoid excessive cooling costs in the summer.

Note: Trade-offs in glass tend to be R-values and passive solar heat gain properties. Generally, the higher the insulation value, the less the opportunity for passive solar gain.