

Approved Document L Volume 1: Dwellings

The changes take effect from 15 June 2022

A copy of the full document is available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057372/ADL1.pdf

This a summary designed to give a quick guide to changes made to the requirements when installing windows and doors in Dwellings. It does not remove the requirement for you to ensure that you are complying with the required legislation and you should always check the full document or, if in any doubt, consult your local building control.

Changes were made to consolidate standards between new builds and existing homes as far as possible.

New Dwellings

Section one of the Approved Document specifies the methodology for the calculation of the primary energy rate, target emission rate and target fabric energy efficiency rate. This is achieved by using the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for energy rating of dwellings.

To meet the target fabric energy efficiency rate set out in section 1 of the Approved Document, the energy efficiency of **some elements will need to be significantly better** than the limiting standards specified in this table.

Minimum Standard for new fabric elements in new dwellings

Element type	Current Standard's U-values (W/m ² .K)	2021 Standard's U-values (W/m ² .K)
All roof types	0.20	0.16
Wall	0.30	0.26
Floors	0.25	0.18
Party Wall	0.20	0.20
Swimming pool basin	0.25	0.25
Window or Roof window	2.00	1.6
Rooflight*	2.00	2.2
Doors (including glazed doors)	2.00	1.6

*Method of calculation has changed and the new rating of 2.2 is actually an improvement.

Existing Dwellings

Minimum Standard for new and replacement fabric elements in existing dwellings

Element type	Current Standard's U-values (W/m ² .K)	2021 Standard's U-values (W/m ² .K)
Pitched roof – insulation at ceiling level	0.16	0.15
Pitched roof – insulation at rafter level	0.18	0.15
Flat roof or roof with integral insulation	0.18	0.15
Wall	0.28	0.18
Floors	0.22	0.18
Swimming pool basin	0.25	0.25
Window or Roof window	1.6 or Window Energy Rating Band C	1.4 Or Window Energy Rating Band B minimum
Rooflight*	1.6 or Window Energy Rating Band C	2.2
Doors with >60% of internal face glazed	1.8 or Doorset Energy Rating Band E	1.4 Or Doorset Energy Rating Band C minimum
Other Doors	1.8 or Doorset Energy Rating Band E	1.4 or Doorset Energy Rating Band B minimum

*Method of calculation has changed and the new rating of 2.2 is actually an improvement.

Note:

1. For **timber windows**, a maximum U-value of 1.6 W/(m²·K) or Window Energy Rating Band C is permissible until 14 June 2023. This is to give manufacturers time to transition to the standard in this Table 4.2. From 15 June 2023 the full standard of 1.4 W/(m²·K) or Window Energy Rating Band B applies.
2. For **timber doors**, a maximum U-value of 1.8 W/(m²·K) or Doorset Energy Rating Band E is permissible until 14 June 2023. This is to give manufacturers time to transition to the standard in this Table 4.2. From 15 June 2023 the full standard of 1.4 W/(m²·K) applies.

Conservatories and porches

A conservatory or porch must have thermal separation from the existing dwelling. If the thermal separation is removed or the dwelling's heating system is extended into the conservatory or porch, the conservatory or porch is treated as an extension.

If the conservatory or porch is not exempt from the energy efficiency requirements (see paragraph 0.14), all the following elements should meet the minimum standards.

1. New thermal elements.
2. Replacement thermal elements.
3. New windows, roof windows, rooflights and doors. The limitations on area of windows, doors and rooflights do not apply.

In addition, both of the following should apply.

1. Any walls, doors and windows should be insulated and draught-proofed to at least the same extent as in the existing dwelling.
2. Fixed building services and/or on-site electricity generation within the conservatory or porch should both:
 - i. meet the standards in Sections 5 and 6
 - ii. have independent temperature and on/off controls.

NOTE:

If a solid roof is to be installed then by definition the conservatory is no longer considered to be a conservatory and the U-values for existing dwellings will apply. i.e. the exemption detailed in clause 0.14 of the Approved Document no longer applies.