PVC-U is Britain’s most popular choice for windows - with more than 85% of building and refurbishment projects benefiting from this cost-effective and highly durable material.

PVC also makes the best possible use of limited budgets - bringing significantly lower installed costs and minimal ongoing maintenance.

PVC is also the world’s most researched polymer with expert opinion testifying to its outstanding environmental credentials.

Now a major Europe-wide programme of recycling post industrial waste as well as post consumer PVC windows and doors ensures that our environmental footprint will reduce even further – making PVC-U the sustainable choice for future generations.

Make the clear choice for windows – PVC-U

Plastic - It’s fantastic
Why every one of your tenants DESERVES PVC-U

Take a look at 8 transparent facts

At every stage of its life – from raw material through manufacture to eventual recovery or recycling – PVC-U windows and doors have major advantages of economy, efficiency and environmental credentials. The following is a brief overview of the open and shut case for PVC-U.

Please ask for our specifier information pack today.

1. DURABLE
   PVC-U windows are tough, durable and long-life. The Building Research Establishment (BRE) states a service life of at least 35 years. PVC-U windows and doors are low maintenance with no need to be painted and treated like windows made from alternative materials. This reduces the requirement for working at height. With advanced design and styling, including a wide range of natural colours and textures, PVC-U windows and doors can be specified to perfectly complement every housing type from traditional to modern. Over 80% of home owners and tenants prefer PVC-U to any other option.

2. EFFICIENT
   In the 50 years since PVC was first introduced, it has benefited from continuous improvements in manufacturing as well as advanced engineering and profile design. The recently introduced Window Energy Rating Scheme has seen the PVC-U industry lead the way, with windows covering the whole range of ratings from the highest ‘A’ to the minimum ‘E’ rating, meaning significant savings on home heating costs, reductions in energy usage and a commitment to sustainability.

3. SAFE & SECURE
   PVC-U complies with all the latest health & safety and security requirements including, when specified, compliance with Secured by Design, the UK Police initiative supporting the principles of ‘designing out crime’ by use of effective crime prevention and security standards for a range of applications. The PVC-U industry leads the way when it comes to continuous improvement of security, health and safety measures integrated into its windows and doors and advanced locking mechanisms meaning high levels of safety and security.

4. ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND
   PVC manufacturing processes go beyond the strictest UK and EU legislation through a Voluntary Commitment by the PVC industry to sustainability. Its low maintenance avoids the ongoing environmental damage associated with the cleaning chemicals, solvents and paints needed to protect and maintain windows and doors made from other materials. One project demonstrated PVC’s strong environmental credentials when 646 tilt and turn PVC-U windows were specified for the UK’s first solar-powered office block at Northumbria University – a project sponsored by the EU, DTI and Greenpeace.

5. RECYCLABLE
   PVC-U windows are being recycled at the end of their life into other useful products. The industry has developed highly successful recycling systems for PVC, including construction materials and has targets to recycle increasing quantities of PVC every year across Europe. In the UK the Recovinyl Scheme has developed an infrastructure of 100 collectors and 20 recyclers of PVC construction materials to recycle products at the end of their service lives. A study by the Government funded Waste and Resource Allocation Programme (WRAP) suggests that some alternative materials are practically impossible to recycle efficiently, due to the paints, solvents and putties used to install and protect them during their service lives.

6. VERSATILE
   PVC is an inherently tough material yet it can be processed to accommodate virtually any design requirement, allowing aesthetic integration with all building styles and locations. A virtually limitless choice of designs and the ability to tailor the PVC-U installation to specifier and architects’ needs mean PVC-U also offers great versatility in all types of housing project.

7. ECONOMICAL
   PVC-U windows and doors provide exceptional cost-effectiveness. A group of housing authorities in the UK carries our regular surveys of the cost of window systems and these show PVC-U’s continuing economic benefit both in capital and maintenance costs – typically around 30% compared with softwood alternatives. Experience in Germany shows typical savings over 25 years of more than 20% against hardwood and more than 50% against aluminium alternatives.

8. SUSTAINABLE
   PVC is the world’s most researched polymer with numerous life cycle analyses conducted in the UK and the EU indicating the material is as sustainable as any other option. The major ingredient of PVC is common salt – an abundant natural resource. PVC-U window products are fully recyclable at the end of their life.

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