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Distance between a Reflective Blind and the Glass

It has long been believed that the further a Reflective Blind is hung from the glass, the less effective it will be. There is a difference, but the magnitude of the change is so small, it need not be considered.

For example: A large picture window, 1500mm wide by 1800mm drop, with a simple aluminium frame and 3mm clear glass, that is the “base” window specification which is used for energy ratings, with a standard Bronze/Silver Reflective Blind mounted at varying distances from the glass, gave the following results:

Distance from Glass	U-Factor	SHGC
25 mm	3.135	.327
100 mm	3.155	.325

As you can see the difference is insignificant. The conclusion we can draw from this is that Reflective Blinds should be installed using “best fit” considerations rather than preconceived ideas about effectiveness.

This data was obtained by computer simulation using the WINDOW5 computer program from Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California and data from the NFRC and AWC.

The U-factor, the Coefficient of Thermal Transfer, assumes that the blind is fitted tight in the window with minimal air movement around its edges.

The SHGC is the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient and here is the fraction of solar radiation admitted through the window, both directly transmitted and absorbed and subsequently released inward.