

Do glass walls (glazing) make any difference to the efficiency of my airconditioner?

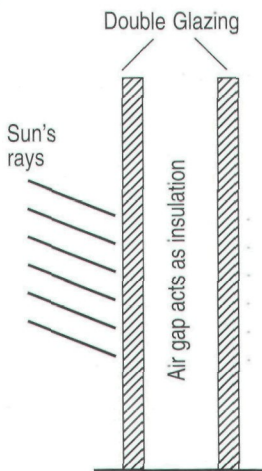
Yes, indeed. This is particularly true of walls facing west for reasons we saw in the previous answer. For example, in Chennai, west-facing glass lets in as much as 25 times more heat than brick!

For a room that has, say, a 100 sq.ft. brick wall facing the west, heat inflow is of the order of 750 BTU (translating into 0.06T of airconditioning load). If the same wall was entirely made of glass, heat inflow is 18625 BTU (1.55 T, a whopping increase of 2500%). An annual power bill of Rs.16,000 more!*

Hence, avoid glass walls unless absolutely necessary. However, if glass is a must, you can still minimise heat inflow by:

- Double glazing
(i.e. double glass walls with air-insulation in between);
- Using tinted glass;
- Providing venetian blinds;
- Using sunfilm on the glass.

However, nothing is as efficient in keeping out heat as a 9" thick brick wall!



*All figures and values quoted as examples throughout this booklet are approximate and are generally based on conditions as prevailing in Chennai.