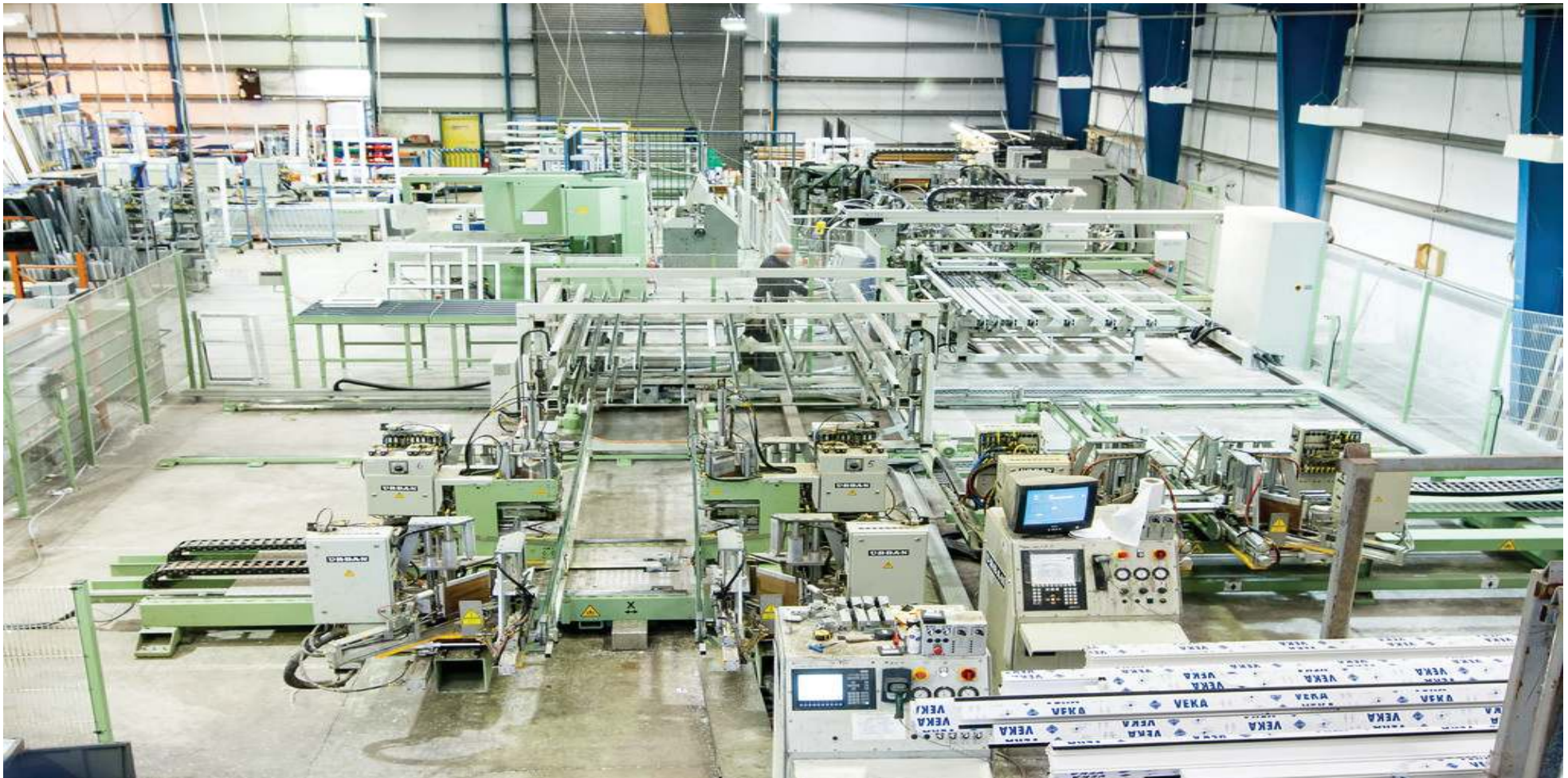


PVCu

merlinnetwork

FRAMING THE FUTURE

Comprehensive window
and conservatory service
throughout Scotland



regular maintenance

Congratulations on your new Merlin Network installation, we trust you will enjoy trouble free usage for many years to come. Your conservatory is fitted with the BBA certified Ultraframe Victorian roofing system – with this system you're safe in the knowledge. However, as with any purchase, to obtain complete satisfaction it is advisable to carry out the simplest of regular maintenance. This booklet contains a variety of useful tips and information to help you get the best from your Merlin Network investment. Should any difficulties occur, please consult your installation company, whose details you should find on the outside back cover.

contents

Glazing Care	4-5
Maintenance6-7
Environmental control8-9
General cleaning10
Blinds11

glazing care

GLASS CLEANING

Float glass, used in most double glazed units, is easily scratched and therefore it is recommended that hand jewellery is removed prior to cleaning. Any proprietary household glass cleaner may be used with a soft cloth and it is recommended that heavy external grime be initially removed with a solution of soap and water. Laminated glass, or glass containing Georgian bars, is cleaned in exactly the same manner.

LEAD GLASS CLEANING

In this type of double glazing, lead strips are bonded to the face(s) of the unit in diamond, square patterns or rectangular patterns. Take care when cleaning leaded lights as excessive pressure might dislodge the lead from the glass surface. The use of warm soapy water and a soft cloth, moderately applied, will prove an adequate cleaning method.

Please note: external lead will oxidise. This is a natural phenomena and cannot be avoided.

SCRATCHED GLASS

Scratches can be removed with jewellers rouge, or equivalent rubbing compound. (Contact your installation company for further advice).

PVCu FRAME CLEANING

Wash frames with soap and water solution, every four months, to remove any grime and atmospheric deposits.

If required clean with a non-abrasive proprietary cleaner, suitable for plastics, using a soft cloth.

If necessary, use a strong, non-abrasive, proprietary cleaner such as cream, to remove any stubborn blemishes.

Please note: Avoid all solvent based or abrasive cleaners.

glazing care

GLASS DEFECTS

All double glazed units are susceptible to a degree of surface damage during the manufacturing process. Certain imperfections in the glass cannot be avoided, even in the most carefully controlled production environment.

SUCH BLEMISHES AND IMPERFECTIONS ARE INHERENT IN ALL DOUBLE GLAZING, AND ACCEPTABLE WITHIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF THE INDUSTRY, AND ARE THEREFORE BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

We wish to draw your attention to the following extract from an industry accepted standard, relating to glass generally.

1. Transparent Glass used in the manufacture of double glazed units is identical to that used in traditional single glazing and will therefore have a similar level of quality.
2. Both panes of the double glazed units shall be viewed from the room side, standing at a distance of two metres (6.5feet) in natural daylight and not in direct sunlight. The area to be viewed is the normal vision area, with the exception of a 50mm (2") wide band around the perimeter of the unit.

3. Flat transparent glass shall be deemed acceptable, if the following phenomena are neither obtuse or bunched:-
 - (a) Totally enclosed seeds
 - (b) Bubbles or blisters
 - (c) Hairlines or blobs
 - (d) Fine scratches, not more than 25mm (1") long
 - (e) Minute embedded particles.

4. Obtrusiveness of blemishes shall be judged by looking through the glass and not at it, under normal lighting conditions as described in paragraph 2.

(Extracted from the Glass & Glazing Federations Standards)

We use only the very highest quality float glass available, whether laminated, toughened or annealed, which conforms to the requirements of BS6262. Double glazed units produced to BS5713, conform to the highest manufacturing standards and the most uncompromising quality control and inspection routines.

PATTERNED GLASS

This glass originates in very large sheets and due to spacing repetition, centralisation of any design, in a specific window, cannot be guaranteed. **There is no correct direction for patterned glass, in general there is no specific "right way up."**

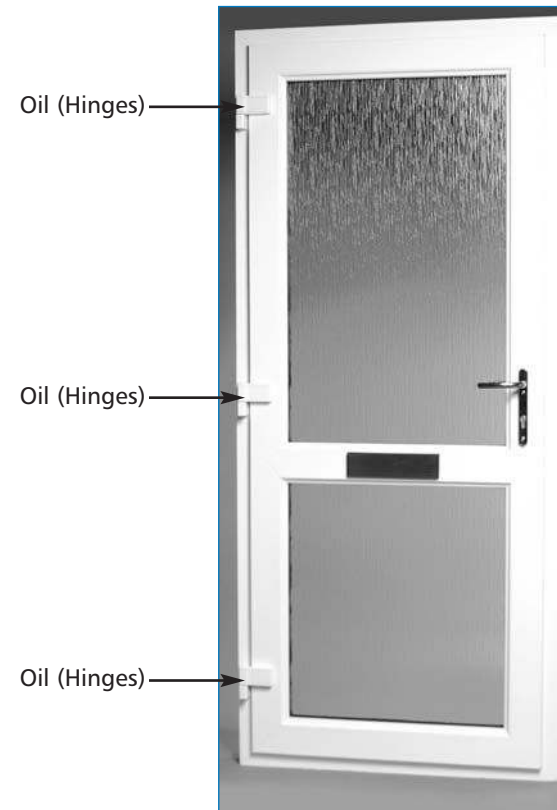
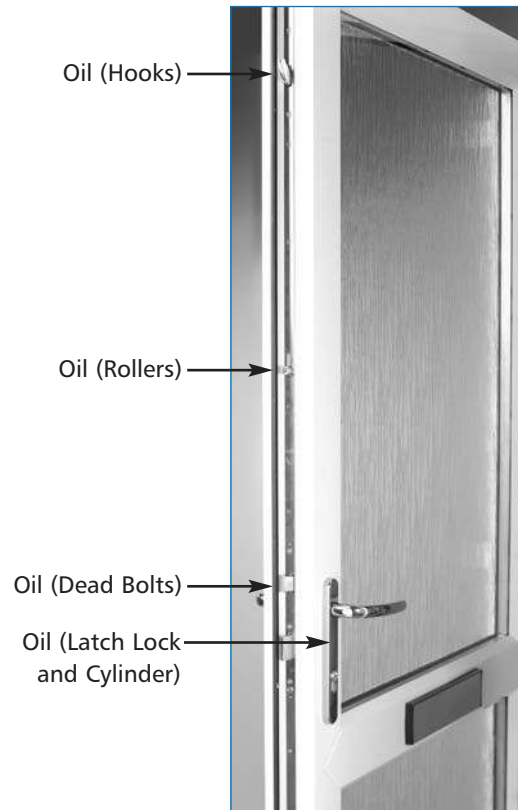
maintenance

LUBRICATION

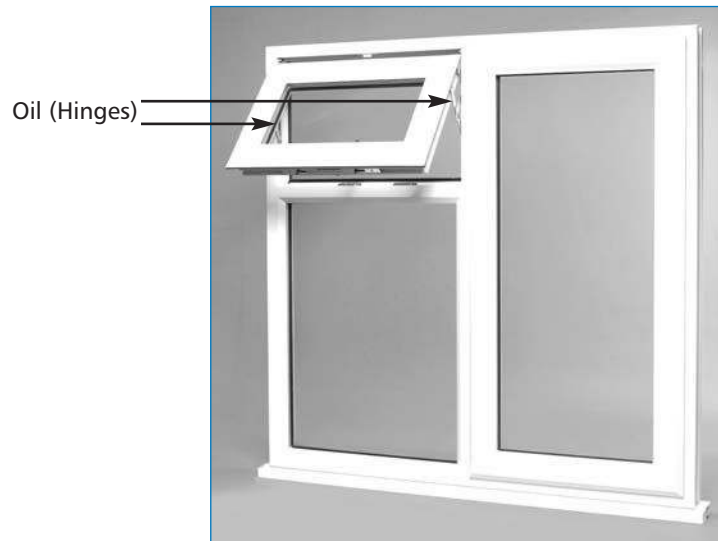
For lubrication of handles, locks and hinges etc., use light machine oil (eg "3 in 1" or "WD40") lubricant for moving parts where indicated.

PVD GOLD FINISH (NOT BRASS)

Never use abrasive cleaning agents. Warm soapy water and a soft cloth are sufficient. It is important that abrasive agents are not used on this finish.



maintenance



BRASS WORK

When installed, brasswork is fully protected with lacquer. In time and through normal wear and tear, this lacquer may peel or become tarnished.

To refurbish your brasswork, carry out the following procedures:-

- You are advised to protect the PVCu surfaces from chemicals etc., by masking off an area around each piece of brasswork
- Remove old lacquer with nail polish remover/paint stripper
- Clean and polish with a suitable proprietary brass polish
- Carefully relacquer with a good quality product

MASTIC SEAL

Please note that some discolouration of the mastic seal is a natural occurrence and cannot be avoided.

environmental control

CONDENSATION

In general climatic conditions water vapour is continually present in the atmosphere.

In the home this natural water content is increased by normal living activities that create steam, such as cooking, bathing, washing, boiling a kettle etc., plus the basic activity of breathing.

The water vapour remains undetectable while floating in warm air; but upon contact with cold surfaces, windows, mirrors, tiles etc., condensation occurs and the vapour turns to water droplets.

Traditional house construction allowed the escape of this water through natural ventilation - open flues of coal fires, air bricks and illfitting windows and doors.

The drive to conserve energy and reduce heating costs has led to the sealing of homes, resulting in trapped water vapour and potential problem of condensation.

Condensation can only ever be minimised and never eradicated.

Important note: Newly constructed conservatories need an initial "drying out" period. Many hundreds of litres of water are used during its construction, ie. dwarf walls, concrete bases and plasterwork. In winter it will take longer to dry out.

CONDENSATION IN MULTIWALL POLYCARBONATE SHEETS

Condensation is a natural phenomenon, sometimes occurring in chambers of Multiwall polycarbonate sheets. Although polycarbonate sheets are slightly permeable to gas and

vapour, certain factors taken into consideration at the design and installation stage can ensure that any condensation is kept to a minimum.

As it is practically impossible to hermetically seal the chambers on a Multiwall polycarbonate sheet, condensation can be experienced in certain applications and areas of installation. Although moist air may enter the chambers to cause fogging, condensation has no influence on the materials, properties or function of the sheet.

VENTILATION

Provide natural ventilation whenever possible by :-

- Opening a window/door.
- Ensuring that the trickle vents in your ridge are open at all times by sliding the control button to the open position.
- Ensuring that the trickle vents at the eaves (if fitted) are open at all times.
- Opening the roof vent (if fitted).

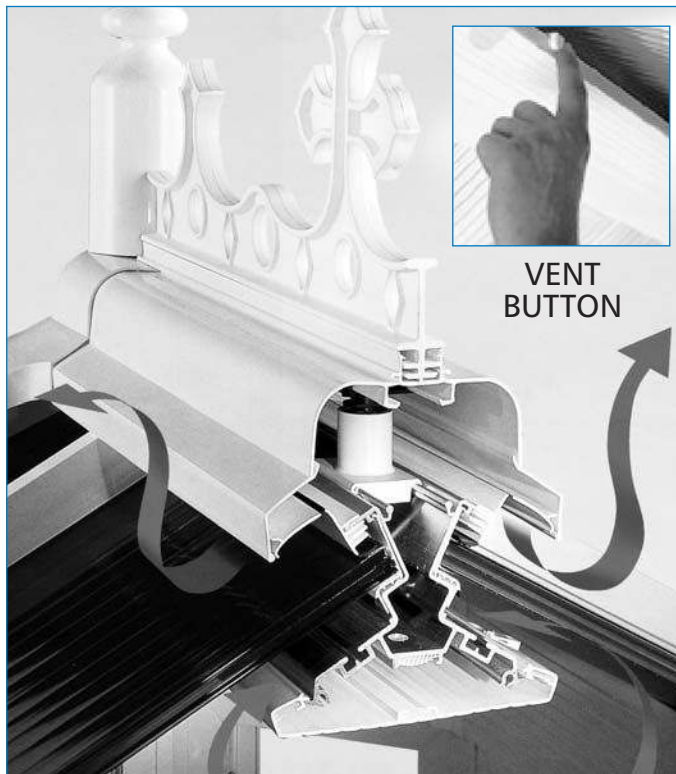
Please note: Security should be considered when leaving open an easily accessible window or roof vent.

HEATING

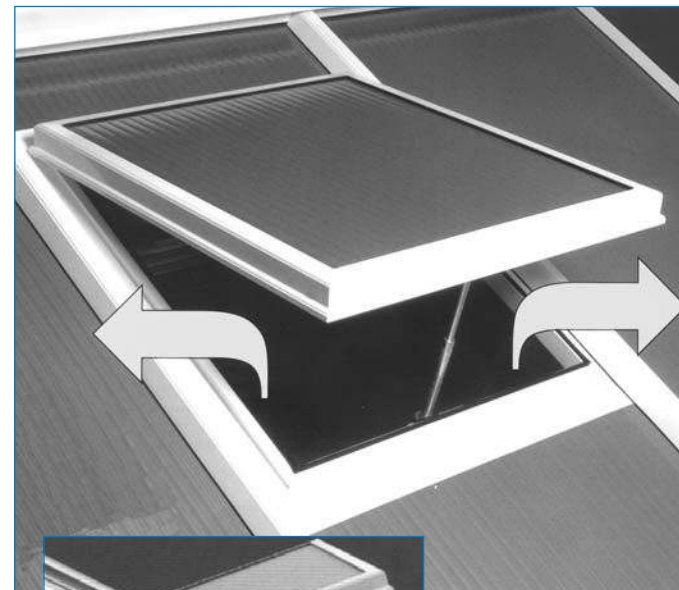
Where your conservatory is heated you should maintain some permanent heat in the conservatory during cold weather. Marginally increase the temperature in areas where condensation is a particular problem.

If possible, situate heating appliances under windows to maintain the temperature of the inside pane of your double glazing.

environmental control



RIDGE VENTILATION (STANDARD)



ROOF VENT (OPTIONAL)

general cleaning

CONSERVATORY & ROOF CLEANING

Wash roof panels and side frames with soap and water solution, every few months, to remove grime and atmospheric deposits.

Please note: Avoid using all solvent based or abrasive cleaners as this may invalidate your guarantee

DRAINAGE

Your double glazed products are designed with an inbuilt drainage system, comprising slots within the thresholds that allow any water ingress to flow to the outside. To ensure an efficient system these slots must remain unblocked. Periodically, remove dirt, clear drain holes and check drainage operation by flushing through with water.

WEATHERSEALS

During cleaning etc., ensure that the weatherseals fitted to your doors and windows do not become dislodged from their grooves. Should this occur, slide back into position immediately, to avoid damage when the product is closed.

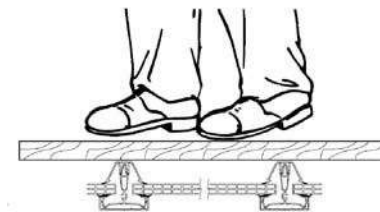
If the weatherseals are broken or damaged and draughts are felt around the product, ensure prompt replacement by contacting your installer.

GUTTERS AND BOXGUTTERS

Unlike the guttering on your house, which is often laid to falls, on a conservatory it is laid level. This is perfectly acceptable, all in accordance with BS 63 67:1983 Code of Practice for Drainage of Roofs. Occasionally, therefore, you will notice standing water in your gutter system.

It is important that all gutters and their respective outlets are regularly cleaned. In-line with published Health and Safety Regulations, always use crawl boards when working on the roof of the conservatory.

PLEASE NOTE:- DO NOT WALK ON CONSERVATORY ROOFS - ALWAYS USE CRAWL BOARDS TO SPREAD THE LOAD. DO NOT LEAN LADDERS AGAINST THE PVCu FRAMES OR GLASS



blinds

If you are considering installing blinds to your new conservatory please read the following information and consider the following points :-

- Blinds must never be installed to cover the inside of the glazing bars (see sketch A).
- The installer of the blinds (at their risk) will attach/penetrate the internal PVC claddings with fixings. Your installation company will not accept any responsibility or claims for the following problems, which may occur as a result of this:-
 1. Water ingress through fixings/screw attachments
 2. Deflection of materials
 3. Distortion of material
- The blinds must be designed to allow hot air to disperse from between the glazing material and the blind. To ensure this we recommend that a space of 15mm be left between the PVC and the actual blind (see sketch B).
- To help reduce internal conservatory temperatures it is recommended that a ridgeflow ventilation unit should be installed whenever blinds are to be installed. In addition an automatic roof vent should be installed. If your conservatory does not contain these items, contact your conservatory installer who can retrospectively fit these. Giving due consideration to the points above will give you the optimum installation.

SKETCH A



SKETCH B

