

## Q&A

### ENVIROBLINDS EXTERNAL ROLLER BLINDS

#### History of external blinds

##### **1. Q: Are external roller blinds a new environmentally-friendly product?**

**A:** External blinds have been used by people throughout history, from the ancient Greeks to the modern day, keeping homes cool in summer and insulating against the elements in winter.

Elegant and ornate external blinds are a common sight throughout Europe, especially in France, Spain and Italy as well as the Middle East and the Americas.

In Georgian times traditional wooden shutters were also popular in the UK for privacy and weather protection. However, the UK has not realised the evolution of the humble shutter to the sophisticated external roller blind that exists today.

Envioblinds is now introducing the external roller blind here in the UK to enjoy the energy saving benefits.

#### Function/Application

##### **2. Q: How do external blinds work?**

**A:** External roller blinds not only reduce the carbon footprint of your building, but also its utility bills. Windows are the weakest thermal element of a building and external roller blinds are used to improve their performance. In the summer the blinds reduce solar gain and excessive overheating by blocking solar radiation externally. In the winter they add thermal resistance and reduce heat loss through windows.

The blinds not only offer thermal insulation themselves, but the air layer between the window and the blind offers additional insulation which improves overall performance.

The additional thermal insulation reduces the heat transfer between outdoors and indoors, therefore reducing the requirement for heating and cooling.

##### **3. Q: How do external blinds reduce costs?**

**A:** The thermal insulation reduces the need for air-conditioning or central heating and so reduces utility costs.

As energy savings are building specific, Envioblinds offers prospective customers complimentary thermal modelling to calculate the projected return on investment that installing our stylish external blinds would achieve.



**4. Q: How are external blinds controlled?**

**A:** Control of the blind is either motorised or manual.

**5. Q: What happens if there's a power cut?**

**A:** All motorised external blinds have a manual override mechanism.

**6. Q: Do external blinds block out the daylight and make the room dark?**

**A:** When partially lowered, the slats are designed to allow sunlight to penetrate the room providing natural light and ventilation. The blinds can be fully lowered for total blackout and insulation against noise.

**7. Q: Do external blinds insulate against noise?**

**A:** When fully lowered, Envioblinds external roller blinds insulation against noise is comparable to that of double glazing.

**8. Q: Do external blinds afford ventilation?**

**A:** When partially lowered, the slats are designed to allow sunlight to penetrate the room providing natural light and ventilation.

**9. Q: Do external blinds have a security function?**

**A:** The primary function of foam filled blinds is thermal insulation. However, by providing protection to the window and concealing the view of the room, our external roller blinds are a valuable deterrent to burglary and vandalism.

For high security applications, Envioblinds offers a range of extruded aluminium shutters.

**10. Q: Can external roller blinds be fitted to all windows?**

**A:** External blinds can be fitted to all windows other than some externally opening windows.

**11. Q: Can external roller blinds be fitted to old and new buildings?**

**A:** External roller blinds can be retrofit to existing buildings, with the blind housing located on the exterior of the building. Compact systems, whereby the blind housing is built and concealed into the wall, is available both for new buildings or if there is to be a total replacement of the window system.



**12. Q: What are the fire safety implications of external roller blinds?**

**A:** External blinds comply with all building safety regulations. All systems are designed not to restrict means of escape in case of fire. Motorised systems can be linked to the fire alarm and automatically open in case of fire. If there is a fire in a neighbouring building they can help prevent the spread of fire and smoke.

**13. Q: I have double glazing. Do I need external roller blinds?**

**A:** External roller blinds effectively insulate windows from thermal heat loss and gain, enhancing the benefits of your double glazing. Envioblinds will work with you, in advance of your purchase, to calculate the cost savings on your utilities that external roller blinds will afford your building and so your return on investment.

**14. Q: Do external roller blinds improve my building's BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes rating?**

**A:** The blinds reduce operational energy demand and therefore help to achieve credits under the energy performance sections of BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

**15. Q: Do Envioblinds external roller blinds comply with Building Regulations Approved Document Part L: Conservation of fuel and power?**

**A:** The blinds improve the building energy rating (BER) making it easier to achieve the regulatory requirements for domestic and non-domestic buildings. They also help achieving the requirement to limit heat gains in summer.

**16. Q: Can external roller blinds cause overheating?**

**A:** The blinds do not cause overheating; in fact they control solar gain and therefore reduce over heating making the building more comfortable.

## Materials

**17. Q: What are Envioblinds external blinds made of?**

**A:** Polyurethane foam filled aluminium.

## Design

**18. Q: Are external roller blinds aesthetically ugly?**

**A:** Envioblinds blinds will enhance the aesthetics of any building. Consider the beautiful architecture in many European cities where external blinds are a common feature.



**19. Q: How much choice of design is there?**

**A:** Envioblinds external roller blinds are available in a range of 22 standard RAL colours and bespoke colour matching is an additional service. Control of the blind is either motorised or manual.

**20. Q: How big is the box which houses the external blind? Is it obtrusive?**

**A:** Envioblinds blinds will enhance the aesthetics of any building. The size of the housing depends on the size of the window which determines the size of the slats. The housing is only visible for retrofit installations and this is designed to match the colour of the blind ensuring the finished look is stylish and sleek.

## **Installation**

**21. Q: Do I need to get planning permission for external roller blinds?**

**A:** Planning permission may be needed in visually sensitive conservation areas. As part of our bespoke service, we will advise you on any requirements for planning permission for your project.

**22. Q: What is the maximum window size external roller blinds can be fitted for?**

**A:** External blinds can be fitted to all windows other than some externally opening windows.

**23. Q: How soon after ordering the blinds can they be installed?**

**A:** Envioblinds can usually be installed 3-4 weeks after payment for standard colours and 6-8 weeks after payment for bespoke colours.

**24. Q: I don't have a project manager, will Envioblinds be able to support me through the installation process?**

**A:** Envioblinds will advise you on the design and specification of your blind system and will manage the installation to meet your requirements.

## **Maintenance**

**25. Q: How long are Envioblinds external roller blinds guaranteed for?**

**A:** Envioblinds offer a product guarantee of 5 years.



**26. Q: How are external roller blinds maintained? How do you get replacement parts, do you provide servicing?**

**A:** Our blinds require very little maintenance and are easy to clean with just a damp cloth. Envioblinds external roller blinds are built to last and have an expected life span of 25 years. Some small moving parts may have to be replaced such as the strap for manual operation. Envioblinds can provide any necessary spare parts and servicing. The blinds are treated to resist against corrosion and UV rays ensuring that the colour and finish will not fade or be tarnished.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editor:**

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