

Choosing the right skylight for your property – a guide for end users

The benefits of daylight for health are well-known: sunlight is a vital source of vitamin D, which helps the body absorb other essential vitamins and minerals, alleviates depression, boosts the immune system; and early research suggests a vitamin D deficiency can have negative implications for a number of health conditions.

What's also become clear is that daylighting – the use of windows and [skylights](#) to introduce more natural light into buildings – has a significantly positive effect on the building users. Recovery rates increase in hospitals; productivity, morale and profitability improve in office buildings; children's behaviour, concentration, academic results and happiness improve in schools.

And then there are the economic and environmental benefits of daylighting: reduced energy use leads directly to lower heating bills and lower carbon emissions. In fact, Part L of the latest Building Regulations specify 20% rooflight area on its notional building. Any less has a negative effect on CO2 emissions.

So choosing the right [skylight](#) for your building, whether it's an existing home or commercial building or a completely new build, is an extremely important consideration. The architects and construction materials specifiers working on your project should know all there is to know, but this is the building you will live or work in, so it's a good idea to get involved.

Whitesales has been a specialist manufacturer, distributor and installer of roof lights for flat roofs for more than 20 years. You can choose standard rooflights from our range and we also design and manufacture bespoke rooflights for specific projects.

Here's an overview of our main rooflight products:

Em-Dome modular rooflights



Em-Dome modular rooflights suit virtually any flat roof and are incredibly durable. Thermoformed using polycarbonate, which is up to 250 times stronger than glass, our Em-Dome rooflights come in a wide range of sizes, shapes and glazing options. The versatility of these skylights means that they can be easily adapted to marry with the building design. The

glazing options also allow for single or multiple layers and finishes.

A key feature of this particular skylight is the patented high-security screw bolt, making unlawful entry next to impossible. Em-Dome rooflights can also double as a smoke vent and serve as an access hatch to the roof.

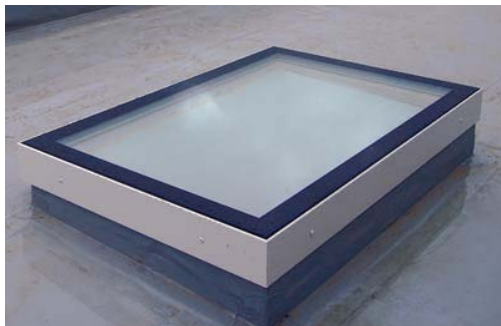
Em-Glaze modular rooflights



Em-Glaze modular rooflights are specifically designed for flat roofs. We provide a wide range of standard shapes and sizes or we can make them to precise measurements and designs.

Our [Em-Glaze skylights](#) have a minimalist design with clean lines, creating a stylish finish both inside and out. They are designed with flat sealed glass units – either triple or double glazed – which sit within an aluminium frame and cill. The aluminium is polyester powder-coated grey as standard, although we can colour-coat them to suit particular design schemes. We can also adapt them for ventilation with a number of standard vents.

Em-Tube tubular skylights



Our Em-Tube [tubular skylights](#) allow a surprising amount of natural light into rooms without windows.

The natural daylight is harnessed at roof level and then aimed downwards through the tube and distributed into the room. A three-metre flexible tubular skylight with a diameter of 550mm transmits anything up to fourteen times the equivalent of a 100-watt bulb.

Certain considerations need to be taken into account if you're looking at tubular rooflights. You need as direct a route as possible between the rooflight and the room into which you're directing the sunlight. The top of the skylight should be on a south-facing roof, as high as possible and of course out of any shadows.

These ingenious skylights can be incorporated easily within existing roofs as well as new builds and are suitable for pitched roofs as well as flat roofs.

Em-Vault continuous rooflights



With a width of up to six metres and unlimited length, these purpose-made, flat roof skylights are designed to bring as much natural light into a building as possible. Our Em-Vault continuous rooflights – also known as barrel vault rooflights because of their shape – can be used on single ply, felt, hot melt, asphalt, liquid, GRP and lead roofs and can be made to virtually any specification.

Made from polycarbonate, Em-Vault rooflights are also incredibly hardy and aesthetically pleasing. Non-fragile models, as specified by the Health and Safety Executive directive on roof works, are available in most designs and specifications.

As standard, the Em-Vault rooflights have fixed glazing but we can incorporate various ventilation options depending on your needs.

T-Vault continuous rooflights



These continuous barrel T-Vault rooflights are designed to be both functional and affordable. With widths of up to four metres and unlimited lengths, our T-Vault rooflights are suitable for a range of flat roofs.

T-Vault rooflights comprise a series of interlocking panels. They're protected against UV deterioration, are highly durable and weather-resistant.

T-Vault rooflights are particularly suited to industrial and commercial premises and we can provide them in a range of glazing skins, finishes and sizes.

Em-Glaze specialist rooflights



Monopitch rooflights

Our Em-Glaze monopitch rooflights are highly versatile skylights for flat roofs. Also known as out-of-plane skylights,

these monopitch rooflights have a flush design to ensure sufficient drainage and a seamless, minimalist finish.

With a variety of options available, the double glazed monopitch rooflight exceeds current thermal requirements and the triple-glazed option leads the way in industry performance standards.



Gable/Hip-ended, Pyramid and Lantern rooflights

These purpose-made [continuous rooflights](#) come in a range of widths and slope pitches. Manufactured from aluminium and available with a choice of glazing options, including polycarbonate and self-cleaning, the gable/hip-ended, pyramid and lantern Em-Glaze rooflights are also available with opening vents, which can be either manually or electrically operated.

Custom designed rooflights

Our [custom rooflights](#) are designed and built to your precise size and shape requirements. The polygon and domed roof lights are particularly popular bespoke rooflight styles, but we also offer elliptical and curved designs.

All of our skylights can be customised to virtually any size and incorporate numerous glazing finishes, double or triple glazing and manual or electronic ventilation.

That's the advantage of choosing custom-made rooflights: there's very little need for compromise and we can build your skylights to complement any style of building.

If you're unclear on any of the details you've read here, or if you've got some very specific skylight ideas and you'd like to talk feasibility, please do get in touch. You can call us on 01483 271371 or send an email to sales@whitesales.co.uk and we'll talk you through what's possible.