

Keeping your cool

Moveable window insulation products
help fight radiant heat gain inside your house.

BY ED BONISCH

With the arrival of summer, we often face the challenge of keeping our homes at a comfortable temperature. In the winter, we can keep our homes snug by adjusting the temperature based on how cold it is outside. But in the summer, lowering the thermostat may not always achieve the same results.

Windows, skylights and solariums are all causes of radiant heat gain. Large areas of glass, especially when facing south or west, can make a room uncomfortably warm. Flat roof skylights and angled or curved sunrooms can cause the greatest problem.

Air conditioners will pump in cool air, but the root of the problem is too much direct radiant heat entering a room. Not only will the increased temperature cause discomfort, but ultraviolet light can harm carpets, pictures and furniture.

The solution to this problem can be found in energy-efficient shading systems. Cellular shades expand to create pockets of trapped air, which in turn insulate against heat transfer in the summer – and winter. A consistent white backing keeps the home looking uniform from the exterior while maximizing the reflection of radiant heat.

Cellular fabrics are available in light-filtering or blackout styles. Both will provide total privacy. The shades can operate from the top down or bottom up. On a window, skylight or solarium, the fabric compacts to just three per cent of its original length. The shades can be controlled by a pull cord or can be motorized. Convenient wall-switch or hand-held remote controls

are available for the motorized units.

High-performance shading systems should be measured, manufactured and installed to exact specifications to ensure maximum efficiency, a proper fit and to meet warranty conditions.



High-performance shades help keep your house cool when it's hot outside.

You don't need to be uncomfortable this summer, as moveable window insulation products will help you stay cool. You also will help the environment by using less energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for this year and many more to come. 🌿

■ For information on specialty shades, contact Ed Bonisch of Brading (Specialty Shades) in Toronto at 416-488-6600, or visit the company's website at www.bradings.com.