

Fact Sheet: Tips for Securing A 7-Star Rating



Following these simple tips will fast-track your home to a 7-star rating.

Location, Orientation & Shading:

- ▶ Double check the assessor has used the **correct postcode** and **build orientation**.
- ▶ Ensure **trees** and **fences** are part of the modelling.
- ▶ Ensure **window furnishings** such as **blinds** and **curtains** are selected in the energy software.



Bonus tip:

If applicable, nominate insect screens!

- ▶ In a **cooling climate** and where applicable, ensure **eaves** are included in the modelling.

Ventilation

- ▶ If applicable, ensure **'highly vented'** is selected as the **roof type**.
- ▶ Ensure **ceiling fans** are modelled for **all habitable rooms** if applicable.

Building Materials & Colours

- ▶ Double check that the **correct shade of colour** is chosen for the **roof, walls, windows, doors** and **floor coverings**.



Colour Selection Tip:

Use light colours for cooling and mixed climates; and dark colours for heating climates.

- ▶ Make sure the **correct type of slab** has been specified.

Windows & Doors

- ▶ Confirm the **correct rooms** and **head heights** have been allocated to **all windows and doors**. The glazing calculator differentiates between different rooms.

(E.g. windows in bedrooms and utility areas have much less impact on the glazing calculations than windows in living rooms)

- ▶ Ensure the **correct window** and **door sizes** are entered into the energy software.

NatHERS Requirement:

The size modelled must be the overall window size, not just the dimensions of the opening component or glazing area.



- ▶ Select **argon gas** if the glazing type is **double glazed**.

- ▶ Use a **fixed window** or a **'combined' window** to represent an **openable window** if the openable portion of the window is **less than 50%**.

(Refer to the end of this document for more information)

- ▶ Identify the **windows and doors** with the **highest scores**. The energy software shows the **percentage of the total score** for each **window and door**. Talk to your NatHERS assessor and Bradnam's representative about these products.

Insulation

- ▶ Double check that the **R-values** are accurate for **external** and **internal walls, floor, ceiling** and **internal garage wall**.

Combined Windows:

Windows can comprise fixed and openable sections, such as an awning window with fixed lites or a patio sliding window. If the openable part of the window takes up less than half of the total window area, it can be modelled in two ways.

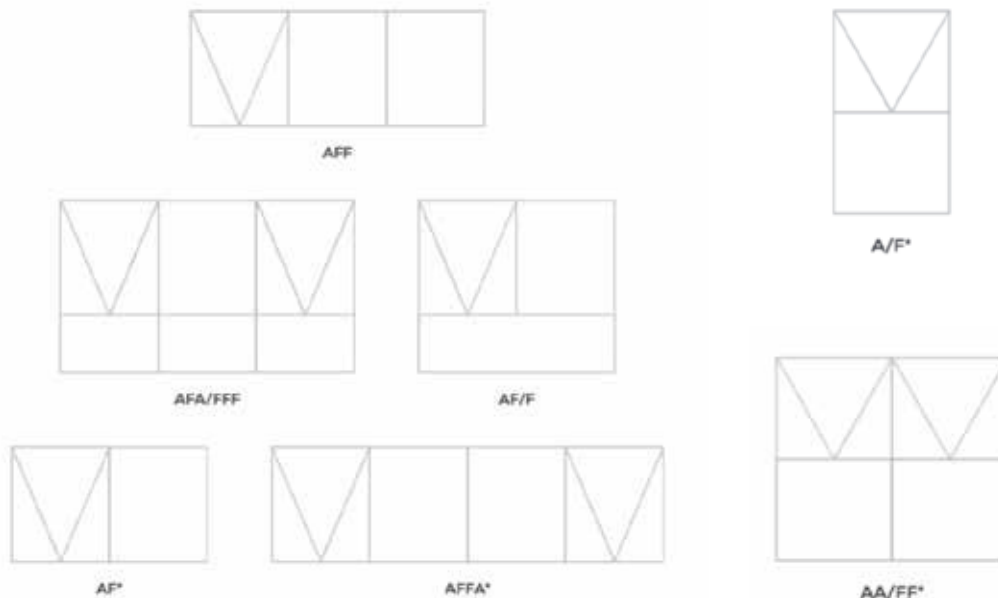
Firstly, the performance of each window section can be calculated and combined. For instance, an awning window configuration of 'FAF' can be modelled by averaging the u-value of a fixed window and an awning window.

Alternatively, the window can be rated as a fixed window entirely, i.e. use the u-value of a fixed window for a 'FAF' configuration.

For more information on how to calculate the performance of windows with fixed and openable sections, refer to pages 77-81 of the NatHERS assessor handbook. The handbook can be found using the following QR code.



Below are additional examples of other window configurations that can be treated as fixed windows.



*Awning panes must be less than 50% of the total window area

The information in this fact sheet is general advice only and valid as of the date shown on the footer.