

Buyers Guide to Product Information

1) Ask to see all the engineering, drawings, test reports and or approvals for the exact product that you wish to have installed.

- a) Make sure the product in question meets the design pressure and does not exceed the size limitations for the product to be used. The wind-speed resistance is not relative to the code. The design pressure changes according to location and height of a building. It also depends on geographic location of the building. Being quoted a wind-speed is deceptive and not applicable.

2) If interested in a PVC product Make sure it is a uPVC (unplasticized PVC).

- a) uPVC is resistant to impact, expansion and contraction and works well in the Florida climate.

5) What type of balances are used in operating windows?

- a) There are 3 types of balances 1: Spiral, 2: Constant Force (Coil) and 3: Block and Tackle.
- b) With weight of dual glazed laminated glass, being 8-10 pounds per square foot, it is necessary to make sure sashes operate efficiently. Block and tackle balances are the only balances rated both residentially and commercially.
- c) Spiral balances, unless commercially rated, cannot handle the weight and will frequently break.
- d) Constant force balances must be stacked and on larger windows you may need as many as 10 balances stacked per sash to operate the window. This limits ventilation or opening of that window and also there is more likelihood of a service issue.



- b) Ask if the product has been tested to the Dade County protocol for accelerated aging.

3) Is the product metal reinforced in the frame, meeting-rail and sash?

- a) Some products are just reinforced in the meeting rail and not through out the whole window.

4) Are the corners fusion welded or mechanically fastened?

- a) Fusion welded corners will not loosen over time.

- e) Block and Tackle balances use non corrosive parts with nylon parachute cord and have been tested to last 3-6 times longer than other balances.

6) If you are purchasing Low-E Glass Make sure it is a soft coat not a hard coat and ask to see the specifications of the glass.

- a) There many types of Low-E glass. The hard coat is the least expensive and least efficient. In Florida climate it does very little in the way of preventing heat gain. One of the most efficient Low-E is Solar Ban 60 by PPG. It is specifically designed to stop heat gain.

The above information is designed to help you in making your decision. If a company cannot supply you with the information requested above we would certainly recommend you investigate them thoroughly.