



Window Shading

Save money by using window shading devices

A significant part of the total air conditioning load for many Hawaii businesses may come from solar radiation through windows. Of course, this depends on total square footage of glass in the building, the direction the glass faces, and whether the window is shaded or not.

In order to reduce radiant heat gain through windows, several different types of shading devices are available. These devices are most cost effective in sunny, hot climates which have a year-round cooling season, like Hawaii.

Blinds, Shades & Films

Common window treatments like blinds and shades can reduce cooling costs, when used properly. In order to be effective, the blinds or shades must be kept down and closed while the sun is shining directly at the window. In general, the lighter colored shades are more effective at reducing heat gain than the darker colored shades.

Another method to reduce cooling costs is to apply reflective or tinted window film to the interior surface of the glass. The reflective films are more effective at reducing radiant heat transfer than the darker tinted films. Be sure to get instructions from the manufacturer or installer about how to clean the film.

Awnings, Solar Screens & Landscaping

Awnings attach to the exterior of a building, and may be fixed or retractable. They may be made of vinyl, wood, or aluminum and in some cases, may be controlled from inside the building. Solar screens attach to the exterior window frame, and may be reused from year to year. Carefully planned landscaping can also help reduce solar heat gains. Trees and shrubs planted near windows will provide some shade from the sun.