

## Guidance note 16A

# Behavioural Change and Solar Shading

### Introduction

Behavioural change is a key part of the UK strategy to reach its environmental and energy saving targets.

With energy prices increasing and set to increase further in the future the only way for homeowners and businesses to save money on energy is to change the way we use it—that is behavioural change.

**A building's energy consumption can be reduced by up to 10% just through behavioural change therefore at no extra cost.**

Carbon Trust, (2011)

When energy was cheap and plentiful we did not think of how we should use the everyday things that could save energy. Blinds are still thought of as the decoration at the window but should be part of an energy saving strategy. By adopting the BBSA best practice on shading you will quickly realise how they will also save you energy and money.

Blinds and shutters can work to save energy irrespective of the season. In the summer they can reduce heat gain and in winter they can reduce heat lost through window systems.



### **The BBSA best practice on using solar shading to maximise energy savings**

- **In summer close the blinds at night on the east and south-east elevations to protect from early morning heat gains**
- **In summer open the blinds at night on the west and north-west elevations to assist night time cooling**
- **In winter close the blinds after the sun goes down to retain heat**
- **In winter on sunny days open the blinds to maximise the heat gains from the winter sun**
- **Blinds in unoccupied rooms should be closed**

