

A Practical Guide to Velux Window Installation for Your Home

Adding natural light to a dark room or converting an attic into a liveable space often comes down to one decision: which roof window to choose. For many homeowners in Bearsden and across Glasgow, Velux windows have become the go-to option because of their reliability, performance, and the wide range of compatible accessories. But a good window is only half the story. The installation itself is where most of the value - and the risk - lives. Get that right, and your room is transformed. Get it wrong, and you could be dealing with leaks, draughts, and expensive repairs.

I've worked on enough projects in the central belt to know that a velux window installation is not a job to rush. Whether you are fitting a single skylight over a staircase or planning a full modern loft conversion with multiple roof windows, the principles remain the same. The roof structure, the type of tile or slate, and the weather all play their part. And so does the person holding the drill.

Why Proper Preparation Matters Before You Start

Before you even pick up a tape measure, you need to be sure about the positioning. A [velux window installation](#) demands careful thought about what is inside the roof cavity. Insulation board, wiring, pipework - you need to know where they all run. Cutting through a joist or hitting a hidden cable is a mistake you only make once. I always mark out the opening from inside the room first, using a spirit level to make sure the lines are square. Then I go up into the loft or onto the roof to check again. It sounds tedious, but that double check saves time later.

The next step is to choose the right flashing kit. Velux make specific kits for different roof coverings. A tile and slate roof needs a different profile to a flat roof window. If you guess, you risk a leak. The flashing kit is not just a trim - it is the seal between the window and the roof. Skimp on it and you will regret it. I always order the Velux-branded flashing kit that matches the tile or slate profile. It costs a bit more than a generic alternative, but it fits properly and comes with clear instructions.



The Core Steps of a Velux Window Installation

Once the prep is done, the actual installation follows a sequence that has been refined over decades. You do not need to be a professional roofer to attempt it, but you do need patience and a steady hand. Here is how a typical installation goes:

- Cut the roof opening: Measure twice, cut once. Use a drill to start the cut, then finish with a saw. Remove the tiles or slates around the cut area carefully so you can reuse them.
- Fit the underfelt and insulation: The roofing felt gets cut and folded into the opening. Tape it well to stop debris falling into the room. Fit the insulation board around the frame.
- Install the mounting brackets: These are fixed to the roof timbers. Use the screws provided in the installation kit. Check the alignment with a spirit level again.
- Lift the window into place: This is a two-person job. The window is heavy, and dropping it damages the frame or the glass. Secure it into the brackets and tighten everything evenly.
- Fit the flashing kit: Slide the flashing under the surrounding tiles or slates. Seal all joints with the tape or mastic supplied. This step must be watertight.

- Finish the interior: Pack the gap between the window frame and the plasterboard with insulation. Fit the internal lining and the plasterboard up to the frame.

Each step has its own pitfalls. For example, if you overtighten the brackets, you can distort the frame and cause the window to bind when you open it. If you undertighten, the window can shift in the wind. A good velux window installation is a matter of feel as much as torque settings.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

I've seen a fair few installations go wrong, and the problems usually cluster around a few areas. The first is poor flashing. Even a small gap lets water in, and water finds its way down through the roof structure. The second is incorrect positioning relative to the roof slope. A roof window needs to sit at the right height so that light enters the room at a useful angle. Too high and you get a tunnel of light. Too low and the window looks awkward from outside. The third mistake is ignoring building regulations. In Scotland, roof windows must meet specific standards for fire escape, ventilation, and structural load. A certified installer will know these rules. If you are doing the work yourself, you need to check with your local building control office before you start.

A fourth mistake is using the wrong tools. A decent drill with a clutch setting helps you avoid stripping screws. A sharp screwdriver - or better, a good impact driver - makes the final adjustments easier. And never trust a tape measure that has seen better days. A misread of even 5mm can throw the whole opening out.

Different Roof Types, Different Approaches

Not every roof is the same. A tile and slate roof is the most common in the Bearsden area, and it is relatively forgiving because you can remove and replace individual tiles. A hip to gable loft conversion often involves cutting into the roof slope at an angle, which makes the flashing more complex. A dormer window is a different beast altogether - it projects from the roof and requires a full frame structure. But a standard velux window installation is simpler. It sits flush with the roof line and relies on the flashing to keep the weather out.



For flat roof window installations, the principle is similar but the flashing is different. You need a collar that rises above the flat surface, and the seal is even more critical because water can pool around the window. Velux make specific flat roof windows and kits for this purpose. Do not try to use a standard roof window on a flat roof - it will leak.

The Value of a Certified Installer

Even if you are a confident DIYer, there is a strong argument for bringing in a certified installer for a velux window installation. The warranty on the window depends on proper installation. Velux offers a 10-year warranty on the glass and components, but only if the work is done to their standards. A certified installer will have the right insurance and the experience to handle unexpected issues - like a hidden beam or a change in roof pitch - without breaking a sweat.

For homeowners in Bearsden and Glasgow, using a local roofer through a directory like centralscotlandtradesmen.co.uk can save time and hassle. You get someone who knows the local building regulations and the typical roof constructions in the area. They will also have relationships with local suppliers, which can speed up delivery of the window and the installation kit.

Final Thoughts on Doing It Yourself

If you decide to do the work yourself, be honest about your skills. A velux window installation is not a weekend job for someone who has never cut through a roof. It takes two to three days for a single window, longer if you are doing multiple windows or working on a complex roof shape. You need a helper, a clean workspace, and a weather window that gives you dry days. Rain in the middle of an installation is a disaster. I once saw a job where a sudden shower soaked the insulation board before the flashing was on. The whole thing had to be stripped out and started again.



Take your time with the flashing. It is the part that most people rush, and it is the part that matters most. Use the correct sealant, follow the manufacturer's instructions, and check every joint before you close up the roof. If you have any doubt, stop and ask. There are plenty of online guides and forums, but nothing beats a conversation with a roofer who has done it before.

At the end of the day, a well-installed roof window transforms a room. It brings in light, air, and a view of the sky that no wall window can match. Whether you are planning a modern loft conversion or just brightening a dark landing, the effort you put into the installation determines how much you enjoy the result. And that is true whether you do it yourself or hire a professional.