

# Bray CONSTRUCTIONS

# B.R.A.T.

Winter 2009



## Meet Eddie

Edwin Muggleton, or Eddie, joined our team in early 2008 as our Quantities and Orders Officer and has quickly become an invaluable part of the Bray team. Eddie sits within eyeshot of the entry to our office and so is often the first to greet you when you visit us.

Although the role he fills was primarily established to support the smooth running of construction projects, Eddie has played key parts in estimating new work and lately has been instrumental in some new safety and compliance initiatives within the company. Eddie is in the final stages of completing a Bachelor of Construction Management and brings a strong work experience in large scale construction and architectural design as well as a new network of professional industry contacts.

Eddie is now an important part of our team, delivering results on a daily basis.

## What Type of Glass?

People are often asking about double glazing of windows versus standard glazing. What they often don't realise is that there are a few other types of glazing available too.

**Double glazing** has long been available, particularly in cooler climates, but started to become more common in Victoria around 2004 when 5-star building regulations were introduced and methods of increasing the energy efficiency of new homes were being sought. Increased wall and ceiling insulation were perhaps the other key measures being taken, but double glazing of windows had a rapid increase in popularity. Two sheets of glass with a pocket of air (or inserted gas) trapped between creates a panel of insulation that just doesn't exist with a standard single sheet of glass. Applying double glazing throughout a house or even to certain sides of the house can make a large difference to the overall thermal efficiency, and comfort, of the house.

An alternative to double glazing is using performance glass. Performance glass is a generic term that refers to tinted, coated or otherwise treated glass. "**Low e**" (for low emissivity) is one such type of coated glass which reduces convection and conduction and creates a higher surface temperature of the glass inside the building, up to 8 degrees Celsius higher than the outside temperature. This difference can be further increased by combining double glazing with Low e glass.



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Reg. Domestic DBU-7740  
Reg. Commercial CBL-502

## What type of glass? cont.

Other coatings are **reflective** and therefore prevent the ingress of radiant solar heat, but also block a large portion of light from entering. **Tints** work in a similar way to reflective coatings however are targeted to only intercept infrared light and therefore allow almost full visible daylight to pass unhindered through the glass.

**Laminated** glass has an advantage in safety. Two sheets of glass are bonded together with a thin layer of plastic between them. In the event that the glass does break, the broken glass sticks to the inner layer and prevents shards from spilling about. Laminated glass has an additional benefit in that it prevents transmittance of 99% of UV radiation, protecting the colour of carpets and furnishings.

**Toughened** glass also has safety properties. Toughened glass is produced from regular glass, but is subsequently heat treated or chemically treated to alter its properties. This makes it much less sensitive to temperature variance, but also makes it about 4 times stronger than regular glass. In the event that toughened glass is broken, it will break into small blunt pieces unlikely to cut or pose any serious safety hazard.

Different glazing technologies offer different levels of acoustic insulation also. Laminated glass will perform well against high frequency noise, while thicker glass and thicker spacing in double glazing will perform better against low frequency noise like road noise.

In general, all types of glass offer varying degrees of the properties mentioned above and it is a matter of choosing the most appropriate, or most appropriate combination, of glass technologies, for each specific purpose.

Cost of course will play a part in the decision making process too, so it is important to get good advice to ensure that your money is well spent.

Bray Constructions works with a range of quality window manufacturers for both timber and aluminium windows and is able to supply and install the most appropriate windows and glazing for your next building project.



## Greenfleet

Greenfleet is a not-for-profit organisation providing individuals and organisations with practical ways to reduce their impact on the environment by helping to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to offset any emissions that are created. Greenfleet encourages supporters to minimise the greenhouse gases they produce and offset any remaining emissions by planting native forests.

Bray Constructions was introduced to Greenfleet in 2006 and has been a supporter ever since. Our entire fleet of vehicles, including those of office staff, are registered with Greenfleet to offset carbon emissions. In our time with Greenfleet we have funded the planting of nearly 600 trees as part of a biodiverse forest and the monitoring of that forest over time.

Please visit [www.greenfleet.com.au](http://www.greenfleet.com.au) and see what you can do to reduce your impact on the environment.



## Happy Birthday Bray Co!

Bray Constructions recently achieved a milestone 15th birthday. We celebrated with a small dinner together as a team and a lovely time was had by all. And gee, you'd be gobsmacked at how much a team of hungry construction workers can eat!

The occasion did give cause to reflect on the achievements made over 15 years and the steady transformation the company has gone through over that time.

From the early days of the company working on decks and pergolas, kitchen and bathroom renovations, we have come a long way in terms of the scale of construction we are engaged in. The common thread linking over 200 projects over those 15 years however has been our commitment to producing the best possible result for each customer.

Many of you will already be aware, we've had some successes with housing awards and customer service awards. We are hopeful of expanding on those successes with a national housing award in July too. But we are regularly handing over completed projects to thrilled customers and that, we believe, is where the real success of our company is. Now, and into the future. **Happy Birthday!**