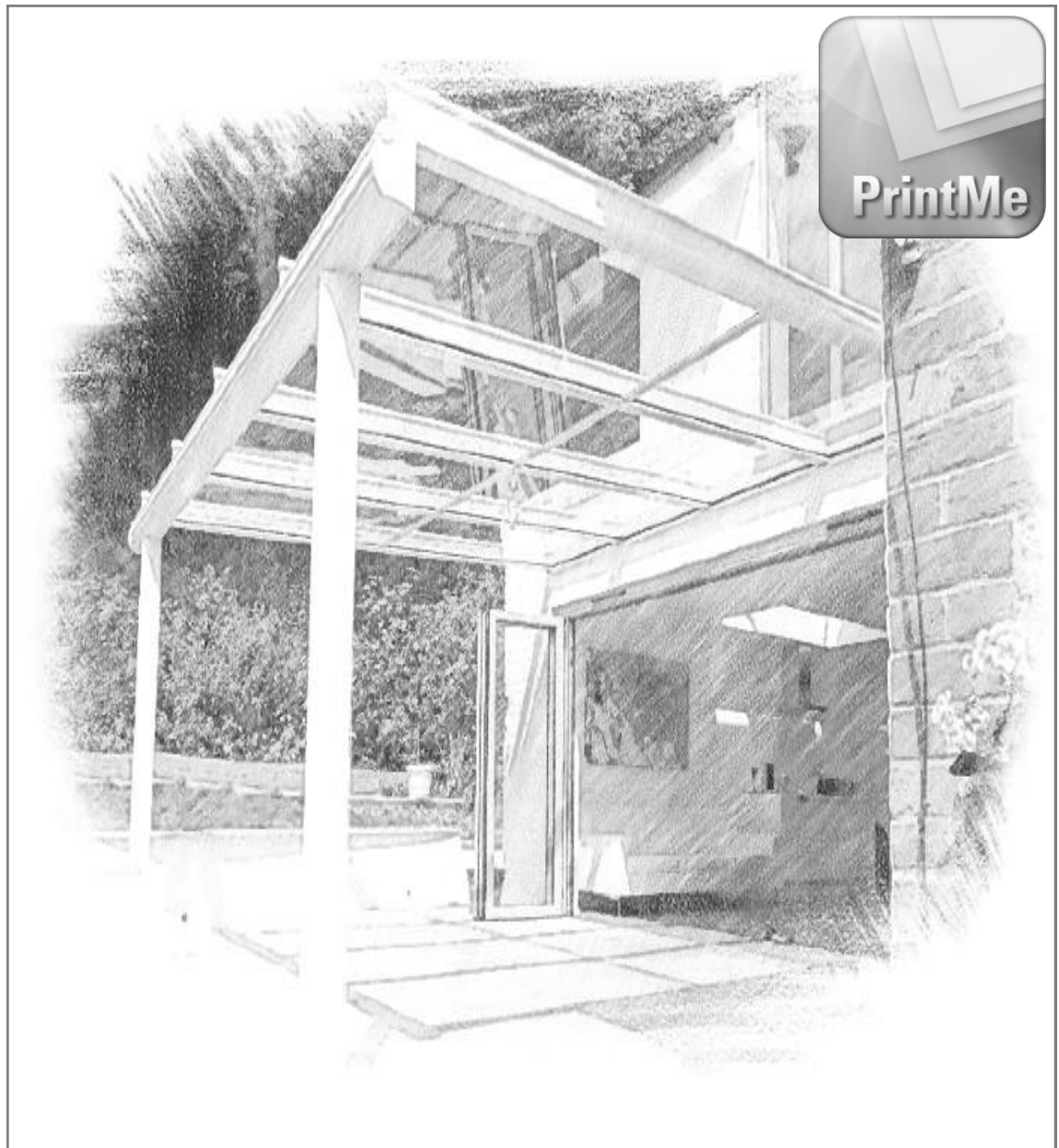


CONSUMER REPORT

Unbiased customer advice to help in choosing
the right Veranda or Glass Room for your home



ELEGANT
GLASS VERANDAS

**ELEGANT GLASS VERANDAS
& GLASS ROOMS**

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Tel: 0800 078 7247

In recent years, glass verandas and garden glass rooms have grown in popularity for improving our homes, creating an outdoor living space and improving the garden environment. A quality product and installation can add value to almost any property, becoming a showpiece while offering you more options for how you can enjoy your time at home.

As a glass veranda becomes part of your house and your lifestyle, there are important factors to consider before selecting the right product. From a cross section of buyers surveyed we present the following advice for making a good purchase, selecting the appropriate product, and giving you the best value for money in terms of functionality and quality.

Top 10 reasons surveyed customers purchased a veranda or glass room

Although freestanding designs are available, glass verandas are typically fitted to the rear wall of the house, creating an '*inside-outside*' space connecting the home with the garden. Below are listed the key 10 reasons surveyed consumers installed a veranda or a glass room:

1. Enjoying more time in the garden
2. Added living space
3. Improve the garden environment
4. Extend the summer season
5. A protected space without losing a garden view
6. Outdoor dining and barbecues despite weather
7. Dry and clean patio seating
8. Warmer climate on the patio below glass
9. Al Fresco entertaining
10. Added privacy from neighbours; in terms of sound from above and from the sides (*where including side elements*) and visual seclusion when including blinds, vertical screens or obscured privacy glass.



Consumer opinions for achieving the best result

With thoughtful planning, a glass veranda can transform your patio area into a beautiful outdoor room. Mistakes can be costly and so a little early consideration to its desired function, size and inclusions can help to ensure that a visiting representative fully understands your goals.

Below are some helpful thoughts for getting your project off to a good start :

Lay out your furniture: Setting out an intended table and chairs arrangement can help you to visualise your required veranda size and configuration. Some customers have found it prudent to change oversized furniture, especially large round patio tables, thus avoiding an unnecessarily large glass roof.

Consider access points: With your layout arranged, consider walkway routes into the house, and from the veranda out to the garden. Will you have dry covered access from a patio door avoiding wet footprints into the house? Where should any middle leg posts avoid obstructing clear access to the garden?

Inclusions: With the right veranda system, adding sides, glass doors, roof blinds or lighting are all possible. List the main purposes you intend your glass veranda to achieve; how much evening use do you expect, might you require heating? Beyond summer, might sides or glass doors provide an all-season facility? Consider your key objectives, just when and how you expect to use your terrace, and remember that a quality modular system can be added to later - so you needn't install everything at once.

Quality & Aesthetics: We all know that there are different qualities available in everything that we buy. Various grades of product exist within the glass verandas market too; structures differing in elegance of appearance, different qualities of engineering and longevity. You may not require a Rolls Royce but most people still desire good quality for their home, and understanding the differences can avoid disappointment.

At the higher end of the market, good design can include; noticeably slender yet stronger profiles, curvaceous form, quality lasting water seals, screwless appearance, and an integrity of manufacture from top grade aluminium (with all stainless steel nuts and washers) down to the quality of powder-coat paint used. Quality looking better, lasting longer, making a proud enhancement to the home.

Moving toward the budget end, tell tales can include lighter duty construction (using thinner aluminium to make the profiles), simplistic rectangle 'boxier' design legs and roof beams, chunky looking front gutters and front legs, cheap flat-plate end caps (with multiple screw heads on show) all giving a more basic design and look. Such systems may also use thinner 8mm glass instead of 10mm, although even some economy systems will have 10mm now.

Demand seeing and feeling a complete product sample.

Buying tips & advice from existing glass veranda owners

As with all great ideas there can be a lot of companies offering to make your dream come true. How many of them are finally able to do that may be another matter, and being prepared in advance can help narrow the field while ensuring your ideal design.

Leg Locations: Many glass veranda systems can allow the legs to be relocated to some extent, or sometimes a central leg fully removed. Think about your garden, your view and your access, what leg post arrangement might ideally suit you. But also keep in mind that more legs can offer more stability.

Patio: If considering remodelling your patio, or adding a wooden deck, be sure to install the glass veranda roof first. Your groundwork can then be constructed around the legs. Deck can instantly remodel old surfaces and eliminate the step-down from your patio door. If considering a deck, or re-paving your patio later, ensure the installed veranda height allows for your expected new ground level.

Companies: The experience and setup of different companies can differ widely. Can the company demonstrate their time established, and a history of happy customers within the veranda market? Look for dates of registration, customer feedback, and for volumes of their own photographs taken from over the years, or do they seem reliant on generic factory stock photos? Note how the well established providers can produce their own impressive marketing brochures, or is a company simply issuing standard factory printed pamphlets? Look for evidence affirming professional dedication, a website may not be enough.

Installers: Installing glass verandas can be an involved task, often outsourced to contractors on a piece work budget. But any glass veranda, no matter how well manufactured, will only be as good as its installation.

Ask, who will be given your all important fitting works? Are the installers full-time employed by the company, or will your project be handed to third parties?

First Impressions: How is your enquiry handled? And does the company know their product? A visiting representative should prove a fair indicator as to the knowledge, the integrity and calibre of the company.

Prepare: Seeing a representative, prepare a list of questions covering the aspects and details important to you. Knowing your desired size, function, access points and inclusions can ensure that a visiting representative fully understands your goals.

Asking the right questions can all help to achieve your desired result.



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