What to Check When Choosing Flyscreens for Your Home

Getting the Right Fit for Every Room

Flyscreens do more than keep insects out. They let you open windows and doors without worrying about wasps, mosquitoes, or flies getting inside. But not every screen suits every room. A kitchen window that opens onto a busy street has different needs from a bedroom window on a quiet upper floor. Thinking through the specifics of each opening helps you avoid the frustration of a screen that flaps in the breeze or blocks your view.

Below is a practical list of points to consider. Work through them room by room, and you will end up with flyscreens that work quietly and last for years.

Measure the Opening Width and Height Correctly

The most common mistake is measuring the window or door opening without accounting for the frame. A screen that is even a few millimetres too wide will not fit, and one that is too narrow leaves gaps for insects to slip through. For a flush fit, measure the width at three points - top, middle, and bottom - and use the smallest figure. Do the same for the height. If the opening is not perfectly square, note the diagonal measurements as well. A screen built to the smallest dimensions will still cover the opening, while one built to the largest may not slot in.

For doors that open outward, also check the clearance between the door handle and the frame when the door is open. A retractable screen needs room to slide across without hitting the handle.

Choose Between Retrofit Installation and New Build

If you are adding flyscreens to existing windows and doors, you are looking at a retrofit installation. That means the screen must attach to the existing frame or the surrounding wall. Many modern flyscreens use tracks or side channels that fix onto the frame with brackets. For timber or uPVC frames this is straightforward, but for aluminium or heritage-style frames you might need adaptors. Check whether the supplier offers fixing kits for your frame material before you order.



For a new extension or a full renovation, you can plan the screen into the frame design from the start. That gives you a cleaner finish because the track is recessed rather than surface-mounted.

Think About a Ground Rail for Large Openings

Patio doors and wide French windows often span a distance that makes a bottom guide useful. A ground rail is a low-profile track fixed to the floor or the threshold. It keeps the screen fabric taut and stops it from blowing sideways in the wind. Without a ground rail, a wide screen can sag in the middle over time and insects can crawl under the loose edge.

In rooms where you roll pushchairs, wheelchairs, or heavy furniture across the threshold, a ground rail can be a trip hazard. Some manufacturers offer a recessed track that sits flush with the floor. For rooms where that is not possible, a weighted hem or magnets in the fabric may be enough to keep the screen in place.

Consider Colour Options and Light Transmission

A flyscreen that works well in a dark north-facing room may feel oppressive in a bright south-facing conservatory. The colour and weave of the screen fabric affect how much light comes through and how much you can see out. Lighter colours, such as white or light grey, let in more

daylight and keep the room feeling open. Darker colours reduce glare and give you more privacy during the day, but they also absorb more heat.

Some fabrics are designed to block the view from outside while still letting air pass through. Others are nearly transparent from inside. If you have a room that faces a public footpath or a neighbour's window, you may want a fabric that obscures the interior. For a room where you value the view, choose a mesh with a higher percentage of open area.

Check Wind Resistance for Exposed Locations

Homes on hilltops, near the coast, or on upper floors of apartment buildings get more wind. A standard flyscreen may billow inward or rattle against the frame. Look for screens that have been tested for wind resistance. The key factors are the stiffness of the side tracks, the tension of the fabric, and the quality of the bottom seal. A screen with a reinforced hem and a snap-on bottom track will stay flat in a breeze.

In very exposed rooms, consider a motorised screen that pulls the fabric tight against the frame when closed. Manual screens can also be tensioned, but you have to remember to do it each time.

Look for a Ten Year Warranty on Moving Parts

Flyscreens have springs, rollers, and guide cords that take wear every time you open or close them. A ten year warranty is a sign that the manufacturer expects those parts to last. It covers defects in materials and workmanship, so if a spring snaps or a roller jams, you are not left paying for replacements. The warranty does not normally cover damage from storms or accidental tears, but it does give you peace of mind that the screen is built to a certain standard.



When you compare options, ask what the warranty covers and whether you need to register the product after purchase. Some warranties require annual cleaning or lubrication to stay valid.

Test the Operation Before You Commit

If possible, try the handle or cord mechanism of a similar screen before you order. A side-winder crank handle works well for windows that are hard to reach, while a pull cord is simple and reliable for doors. Motorised options are convenient for large or high screens, but they need a power supply nearby. For rooms where you will open and close the screen several times a day, make sure the mechanism feels smooth and does not require a lot of force. A stiff action is tiring and puts stress on the frame.

For doors that lead to a garden or balcony, the screen should retract fully out of the way so the door can swing free. Some screens have a cassette that houses the rolled fabric when open, keeping it clean and protected.

One option that covers many of these points well is Gozito. Their made to measure retractable flyscreens are designed for both doors and windows, and they offer a range of colours and fabric types to suit different rooms. The company focuses on keeping homes and workplaces protected from insects without relying on pesticides.

Plan for Maintenance and Cleaning

Flyscreens collect dust, pollen, and spider webs over time. A screen that is easy to remove and wash will stay looking good. Some fabrics can be hosed down while still fitted, others need to be taken off and wiped with a damp cloth. Check the cleaning instructions before you choose. For rooms near a kitchen or a barbecue area, the fabric may also pick up grease, so a smooth polyester mesh is easier to clean than a textured one.

If the screen is in a bathroom or a laundry room, look for a fabric that resists mould and mildew. Those rooms have high humidity, and a screen that stays damp will develop dark spots.

Balance Privacy with Ventilation

A flyscreen should let air move through while keeping insects out. That is the whole point. But in rooms where you want privacy - a ground-floor bedroom or a home office facing the street - you may need a fabric that obscures the interior while still allowing airflow. Some weaves are designed to do exactly that. They look opaque from the outside but clear from inside, or vice versa. Test this in the actual room if you can, because the effect changes with the angle of the sun.

For a room that doubles as a guest bedroom, you might want a screen that can be fully retracted during the day so the room feels open, then closed at dusk when insects become active.



David O'ROURKE
2 reviews GB

★★★★★ 29 Apr 2024

I would recommendve Gozito 100% Jason…

I would recommend Gozito 100% Jason was a pleasure to deal with and kept me informed from start to finish even after the courier service let him down with the delivery date.John fitted the screen and was professional and polite at all times Thanks Jason and John 100% pleased

Date of experience: 04 April 2024

Think About Pets and Children

If you have cats, dogs, or small children, the screen needs to withstand a bit of rough treatment. A cat may try to push through a screen to get at a bird outside. Children may pull on the fabric or jam toys into the track. Look for a screen with a durable mesh that resists punctures and a track that is child-safe. Some screens have a locking mechanism that prevents them from being opened accidentally. For rooms where pets scratch at the screen, a heavier-duty fabric with a tighter weave is worth the extra cost.

In a nursery, also check that the screen cord or chain has a safety breakaway feature to prevent strangulation hazards. Many modern screens comply with safety standards for loops and cords.

By running through these points for each room, you can choose flyscreens that fit well, operate smoothly, and last. Whether you are protecting a kitchen, a bedroom, or a home office, the right screen makes the space more comfortable without drawing attention to itself. Gozito offers made to measure options that can be tailored to the specific dimensions and conditions of your home.