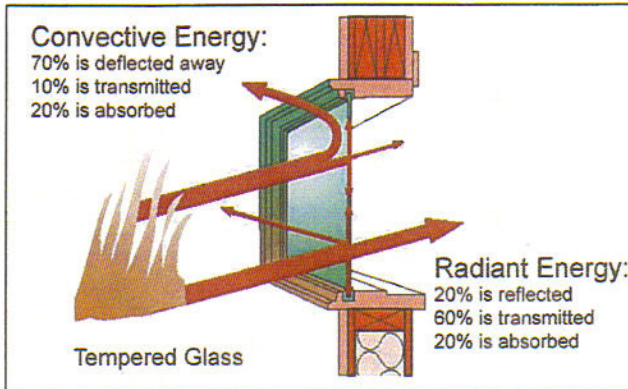


Wildfire Mitigation: Windows and Doors

Windows and doors allow a fire entry if not fire resistant. Glass usually fractures under high temperatures—sometimes in as little as 5 minutes. Even if not broken, hot gasses and high temperature heat radiation can cause flammable materials, like curtains or drapes, to ignite. Even double paned windows will also fracture after about ten minutes.

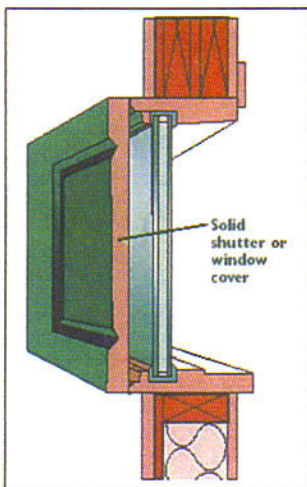
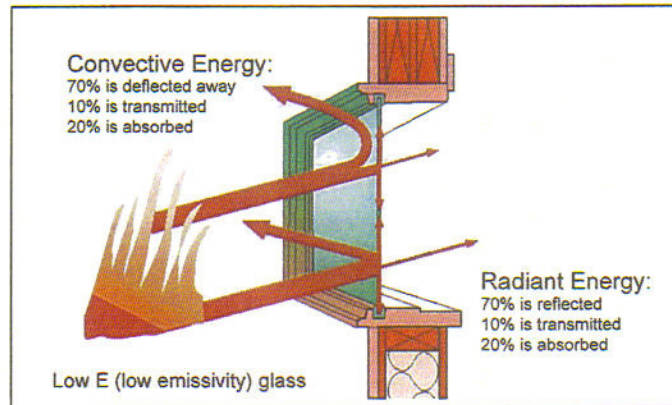


Tempered glass is resistant to high heat and impact. Generally, tempered glass is 50% more expensive than regular glass, so check with your local window supplier to find any low-cost options.

Low E (low emissivity) glass is treated with an ultra thin metallic coating, making it more fire

resistant, and preventing the radiation of heat to the inside of the structure. It is also energy efficient.

Any window is only effective if it remains in place. Wood frames are not fire resistant; vinyl frames melt, causing windows to fall out of place; aluminum clad frames may conduct heat, but withstand heat longer; all aluminum frames are even better.



Shutters protect windows long enough to withstand a wildland fire. Wood shutters are cheaper, but they are more flammable. Metal shutters are best of all.

Doors should have a sufficient fire rating. Unrated wood doors can burn through in ten minutes—use a class C, 20 minute-rated door. If doors have glass windows, follow the above guidelines. Metal, steel, or aluminum doors are preferable.

*Check local ordinances before modifying windows or doors.