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Passive Solar: the low-tech way to heat your home

Whether you're giving your house a new lease of life with a refurb or planning your brand new dream home, getting the most bang for your buck will be a priority.

Good design can save you money on your bills, create a healthier indoor environment and also reduce your carbon footprint. This article is about a particular design principle called passive solar. So, what is it, how does it work and how can it benefit you?

What is passive solar?

When hearing the word 'solar' most people think of solar panels. But that's not the only way to harness the sun's energy. Passive solar is simply optimising the sun's natural light and warmth through low-tech design features such as large southfacing windows and good insulation.

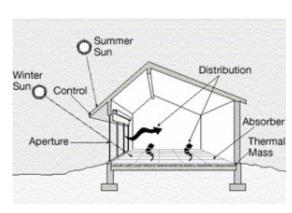


Diagram illustrating how passive solar works. Wikipedia Commons.

Making the best use of this passive solar energy is an affordable, sustainable and pleasant way to light and heat a building.

How it works

The three key ingredients to passive solar design are orientation, heat-retention and air-

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