

Doors and windows

Throughout the period 1850-2000, doors and windows were made of wood. Cast iron was introduced as a building material in the 1850s, and from the 1860s it was used for small windows, especially skylights.

For a period – around 1930 and ten years thereafter – doors and windows were often produced from profiled iron in a desire to achieve the smallest possible framing profile: this was especially popular during the emerging Modernist movement.

Doors and windows of aluminium or plastic began to be more widely used in the 1970s.

Windows with two layers of glass have been known of since the end of the 1800s, where the inner layer was mounted during the winter – so-called double casements – though only in a very small section of the building. In the buildings of the 1930s onwards, windows with coupled frames gained ground, and minimum requirements for the thermal insulation of windows were laid out in BR-61. Under BR-82, the requirement relating to thermal insulation capacity could be met only with the use of sealed panes, i.e. double glazing.

Virtually all windows and balcony doors have been replaced since the buildings housing them were constructed – often more than once.

