

Consider the Property Aspect

Don Waterworth, The Installer's technical expert, says all Fenestration Surveyors must take special care when specifying products, especially when the property is elevated and exposed.



I often inspect installations and conservatory builds where the surveyor from the window company has not considered the aspect of an exposed elevation, writes The Installer's technical expert, Don Waterworth.

All Fenestration Surveyors must be aware that any elevations facing a South or South-West aspect, particularly when the aspect is an open or the property is elevated and exposed, then special care should be taken with regards to specifying products.

A different kettle

Furthermore, installers must also be on their guard as fitting windows to a South-West elevation on an elevated farmhouse on

the Pennines, is a different kettle of fish than fitting windows on a North facing elevation in a valley in the Cotswolds. The performance requirements are completely different.

Take a look at the photograph here and note how the friction stay is showing rust.

This was on a South facing open aspect north of Bolton. The windows were also 1st floor windows, meaning that these windows were destined to accept the prevailing south-westerly winds and rain common in the UK. Add to the aspect, windows slightly 'in twist' and therefore allowing wind driven rain to bypass the sash gaskets...and you have an irate consumer.

Get rust free fittings

You either need to specify the aspect to your supplier or if your supplier will not guarantee rust free fittings, then make this known to your customers. Either way, take care with your surveys and be clear on the aspect expectations with regards to weather exposure. **■**

Don

Picture: Note how the friction stay is rusting.

This article has been authored by our technical writer – Principal Surveyor Don Waterworth of hanleyamosstewart.co.uk

Don also acts as an Expert Witness and is an Accredited Mediator.

Tel: 0800 1954922

Tuesday-Thursday
10:00am-3:00pm.