



Picture: ©GKFP



PVC WINDOWS – A contributing Factor to Sustainability

Modern RAL certified PVC windows are rightfully called sustainable construction products: They are durable, produced from sustainably sourced raw materials, support energy-saving and can be recycled.

Do you know the Sustainability Mark from VinylPlus?

VinylPlus is the sustainability program of the European PVC industry. It has been developed jointly by experts from the industry, BRE (Building Research Establishment, UK) and the NGO *The Natural Step*, Sweden. Partners of the program commit to establish effective management systems, to produce raw materials sustainably and to guarantee high security standards in the logistics of intermediate products. Furthermore, PVC recycling should be encouraged, energy saving plans implemented and employees and business partners should be inspired with regard to sustainability. Window profile manufacturers have implemented the above commendable and hence obtained the VinylPlus Product Label: vinylplus.eu

Did you know that old Windows are a valuable Raw Material Source?

A window profile can be recycled up to seven times- without a loss of quality. This has been demonstrated in numerous analyses commissioned by the Quality Association for PVC Window Profiles Systems (GKFP). Recyclate saves valuable resources and diminishes the energy use for the raw material and profile production. Thereby emissions of CO₂ and other pollutants are lowered *idem*. Compared to a used ton of virgin PVC, a ton of recycled PVC saves almost 2 tons of CO₂ in total. Not to forget that these windows containing recyclate can again be recycled at the end of their life after 30 to 40 years. In Germany, for instance, the Rewindo GmbH administers and furthers the PVC window recycling: rewindo.de

Did you know that Quality Assured PVC Windows stand for Healthy Living?

Healthy living first and foremost means avoiding harmful substances indoors. The German Institute for Construction Engineering has developed a scheme for the health-related evaluation of construction products (AgBB). Quality assured PVC windows comply with the requirements of this scheme, as documented by our EPDs: ibu-epd.com

Did you know that new Windows can decrease your Energy Use by up to 40% per Year?

This is the case if you exchange old windows for new, triple-glazed PVC windows. Insulation values are described by the U_w - value which amounts to 1,3 W/(m²K) for double-glazed and falls below 1,0 W/(m²K) for triple-glazed windows. Windows with a value below 0,8 W/(m²K) comply with the German standard for zero energy houses. By the way: For the installation of energy-efficient windows a row of subsidies by the kfw is available: kfw.de

As you can see, there are at least five strong arguments in favour of the sustainable construction product PVC window. Read more on: gkfp.de