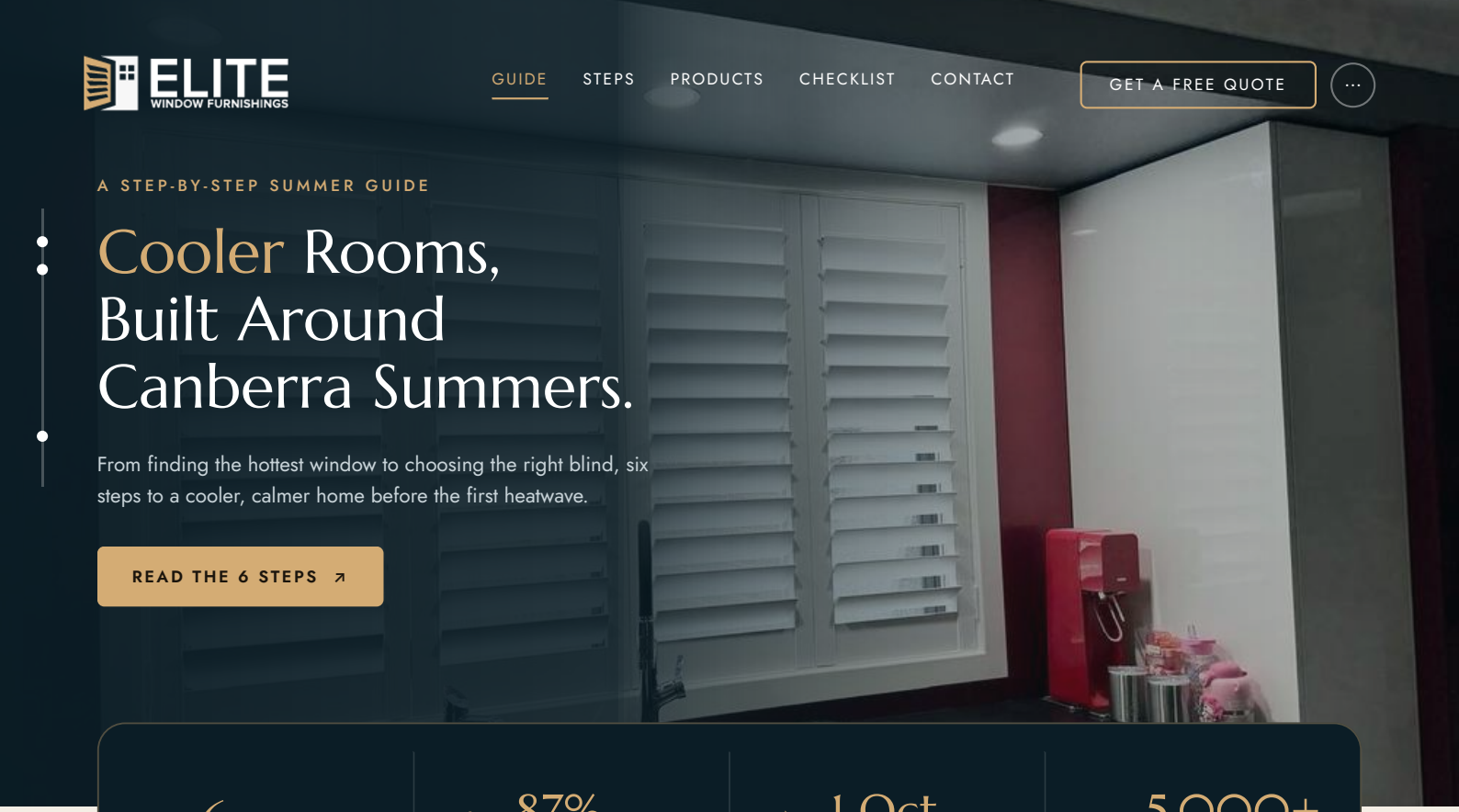


A STEP-BY-STEP SUMMER GUIDE

Cooler Rooms, Built Around Canberra Summers.

From finding the hottest window to choosing the right blind, six steps to a cooler, calmer home before the first heatwave.

READ THE 6 STEPS ↗

6	87%	1 Oct	5,000+
Simple steps	Summer heat gain via windows (up to)	ACT fire season begins	Canberra homes fitted out

FEATURED SOLUTIONS

Rooms That Stay Cool

VIEW ALL PRODUCTS



Plantation Shutters
Living rooms · Step 03



Honeycomb Blinds
Hot & cold rooms



Sheer Curtains
Layered light



Security Doors
Night airflow

WHAT WE SUPPLY

End-to-End Window Solutions

Blinds
Roller, honeycomb, panel and more.

Curtains
Sheer, blockout and lined.

Shutters
Plantation shutters for living rooms.

Roller Shutters
Outside shade for sunny windows.

Awnings
Folding arm, straight drop, zip.

Security
Amplimesh doors and screens.

THE PROCESS

A Simple Path to a Cooler Home

01	02	03	04	05	06
Find	Shade	Choose	Ventilate	Quick wins	Upgrade
The windows that do the damage	Stop heat outside the glass	Inside coverings for summer	Close by mid-morning	Low-cost steps this summer	Pays off over many summers

Let's Build a Cooler Home

☏ (02) 5119 2542
✉ sales@elitewf.com.au
⌂ 4B/34 Wollongong St, Fyshwick ACT

BOOK A FREE MEASURE

ELITE WINDOW FURNISHINGS



A FREE SEASONAL GUIDE FROM ELITE WINDOW FURNISHINGS

Preparing Your Windows for Canberra Summer

Canberra summers are dry, bright and hot in the afternoons, with UV that climbs higher than most people expect. Then the evenings cool off quickly. Those cool evenings are useful: with the right coverings and well-timed ventilation, you can keep the house noticeably cooler.

It matters because the glass is usually where the heat gets in. The Australian Government's Your Home guide notes that windows can account for up to 87 per cent of a home's heat gain in summer. This guide walks through how to prepare your windows for summer in Canberra, step by step, starting with the ones that cause the most trouble.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Six Steps to a Cooler Home

01 Find the Windows That Do the Damage — PAGE 03

02 Stop the Heat Outside the Glass — PAGE 04

03 Choose Inside Coverings for Summer — PAGE 05

04 Time Your Ventilation — PAGE 06

05 Low-Cost Steps for This Summer — PAGE 07

06 Upgrades That Pay Off Over Several Summers — PAGE 08



Shade outside the glass



Control light inside

UP TO

87%

of a home's summer heat gain can come through its windows. Source: Your Home



01

Find the Windows That Do the Damage

Not every window needs the same treatment. Before you buy anything, walk around the house on a sunny afternoon and note which rooms get hot first.

WHICH WAY DOES IT FACE?

Every Window Has a Heat Rating

West

West-facing windows are usually the worst. They take the low, harsh afternoon sun at the hottest time of day, and it shines almost straight through the glass.

North

North-facing windows get plenty of sun, but in summer it's high in the sky. A modest eave or awning can shade them well.

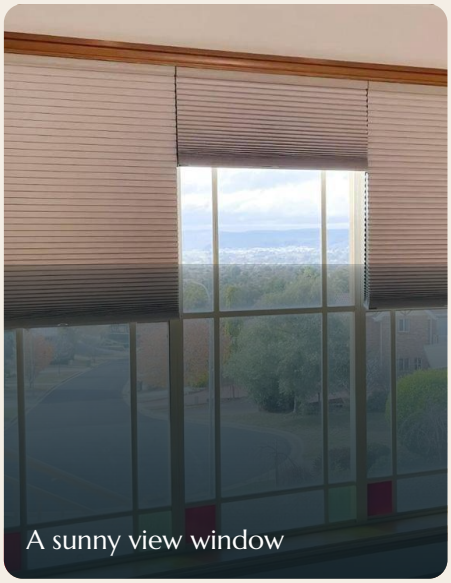
East

East-facing windows catch the morning sun. They can make bedrooms bright and warm early, but the heat is gentler.

South

South-facing windows get little direct sun and rarely need much summer protection.

> “ Start with the west-facing living areas and bedrooms. That's where most of the gain is.



A sunny view window



Kitchen shutters



Shutters on the street side



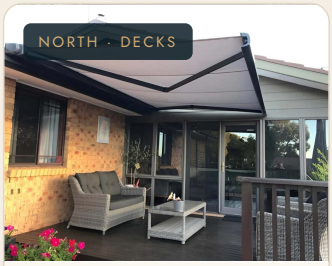
02

Stop the Heat Outside the Glass

The most effective way to keep a room cool is to stop the sun before it reaches the window. Once sunlight passes through the glass, most of its heat is already inside, even if a blind is closed behind it.

EXTERNAL SHADING OPTIONS

Shade That Works Before the Glass



Folding arm awnings

Extend out from the wall and suit north-facing windows, decks and patios. They retract when you want the winter sun back.



Straight drop awnings

Hang vertically and work well on west-facing windows, where the sun is low.



Zip screen awnings & outdoor blinds

Run in side channels, so they stay put in wind and can enclose an alfresco area on a hot afternoon.



Motorised awnings

Can be opened and closed at the right time of day, even when nobody is home.

> “ If you only do one thing for a hot west-facing room, external shading is usually it.



Zip screen enclosing an outdoor area

WHY OUTSIDE?

Once sunlight passes through the glass, most of its heat is already inside.

ELITE
WINDOW FURNISHINGS



03

Choose Inside Coverings for Summer

Inside coverings do the next layer of work, controlling glare and slowing the heat that does get through.

AT A GLANCE

Coverings. Comfort. Room by Room.

	COVERING	WHAT IT DOES IN SUMMER
	Sunscreen roller blinds	Cut glare and UV while keeping the view, which suits **living areas and home offices**.
	Blockout roller blinds	Keep **bedrooms** dark and noticeably cooler on summer mornings.
	Honeycomb (cellular) blinds	Trap air in their pockets, which slows heat moving through the window in **both summer and winter**.
	Plantation shutters	Let you angle the louvres to **block direct sun** but still let air and some light through.
	Lined curtains	Curtains that sit close to the window and reach the floor help **keep the heat behind them**.

COLOUR TIP

Light colours reflect more heat

Lighter colours facing the glass reflect more heat than dark ones.

THE DESIGNER'S LAYER

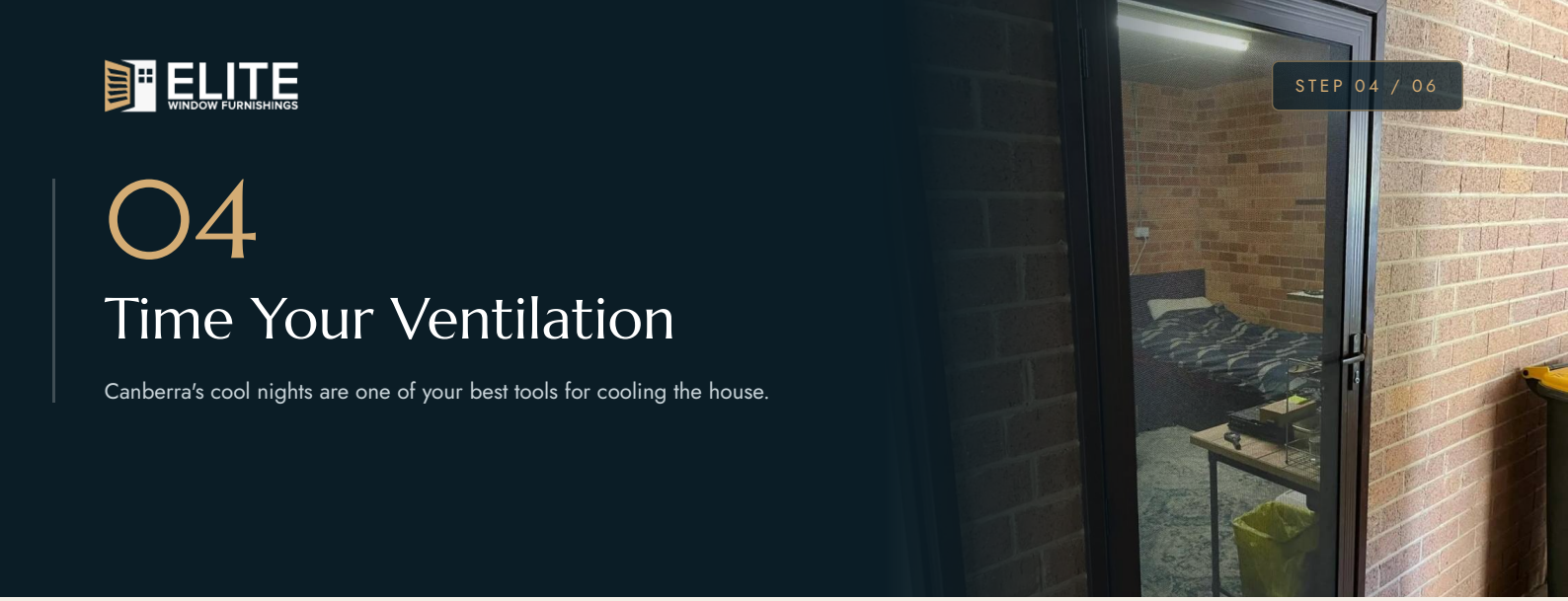
Layer for all-day control

For many rooms, the best result comes from layering, such as a sunscreen blind with a lined curtain, so you can adjust the room through the day.


Plantation shutters


Light-filtering panel blinds


Sheer curtains for layering



04

Time Your Ventilation

Canberra's cool nights are one of your best tools for cooling the house.

A DAY IN A COOLER HOME

Close Up, Then Open Up

Close up by mid-morning on hot days

Shut windows and lower blinds and awnings before the heat builds, especially on the west side.

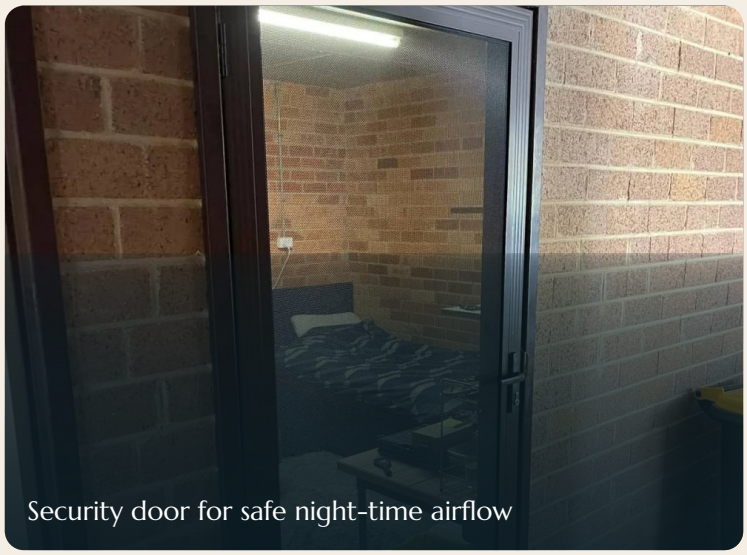
Open up in the evening once it's cooler outside than in

Open windows on opposite sides of the house to get air moving through.

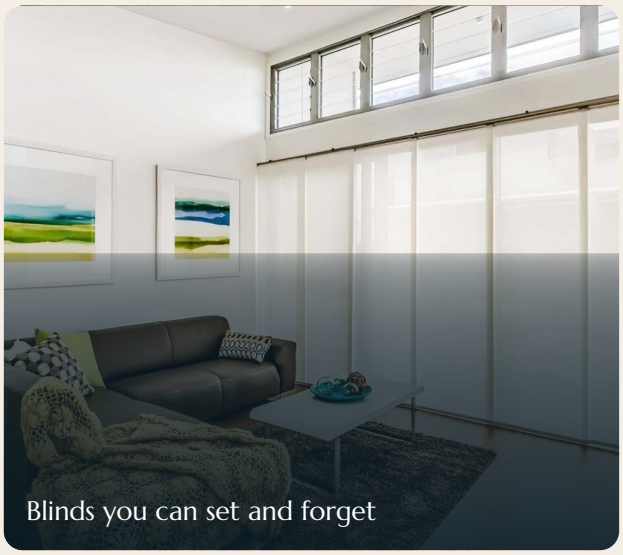
Use screens so you can leave windows open overnight without letting insects in

Security screens let you do this safely on the ground floor.

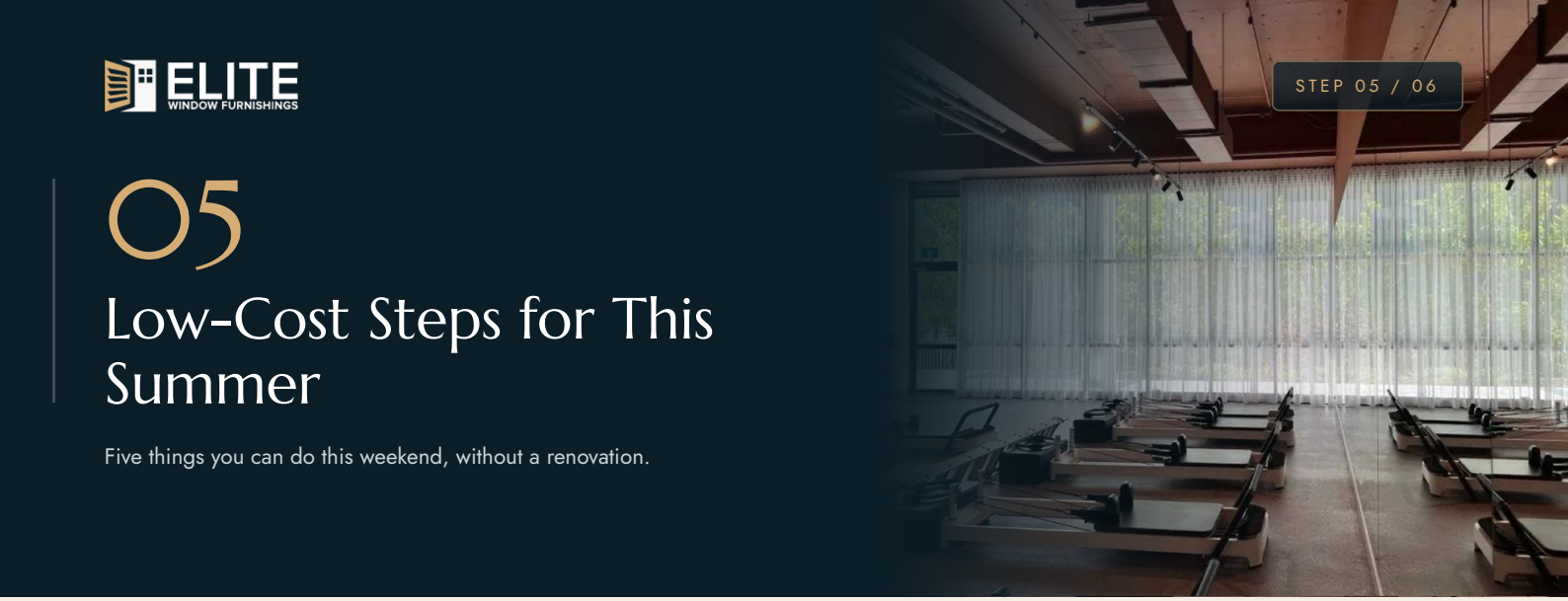
> “ Motorised blinds and awnings make this easier to stick to, because they can follow a schedule.



Security door for safe night-time airflow



Blinds you can set and forget



05

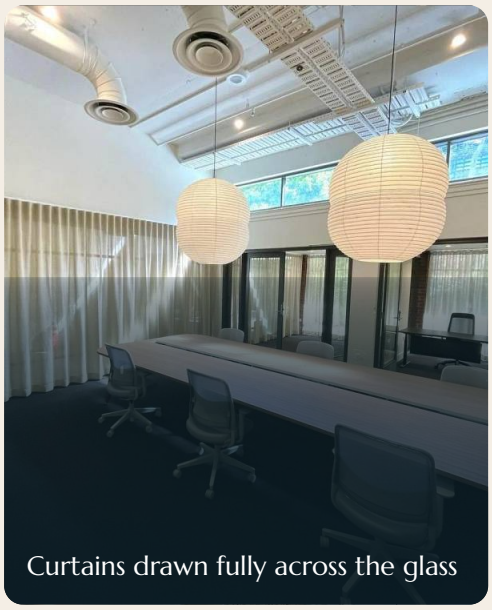
Low-Cost Steps for This Summer

Five things you can do this weekend, without a renovation.

QUICK WINS

Small Changes, Cooler Rooms

1. Close blinds and curtains on west-facing rooms before you leave for work.
2. Check that existing blinds still close fully and sit flush in the window recess.
3. Add security screens so you can leave windows open at night.
4. Move furniture and rugs out of direct afternoon sun to cut fading.
5. Draw curtains fully across the window rather than leaving a gap at the side.



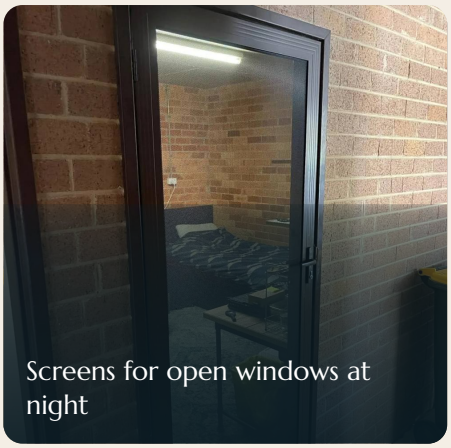
Curtains drawn fully across the glass



Blinds that close fully



Furniture out of the afternoon sun



Screens for open windows at night

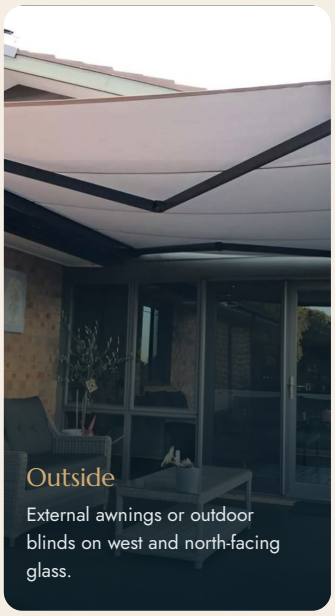


06

Upgrades That Pay Off Over Several Summers

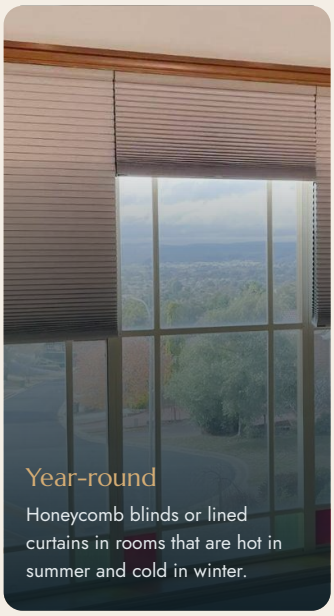
WORTH THE INVESTMENT

Upgrades That Keep Paying Off



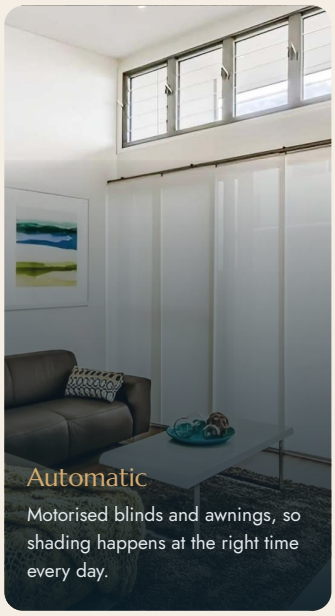
Outside

External awnings or outdoor blinds on west and north-facing glass.



Year-round

Honeycomb blinds or lined curtains in rooms that are hot in summer and cold in winter.



Automatic

Motorised blinds and awnings, so shading happens at the right time every day.



Night airflow

Security screens on doors and windows you'd like to leave open at night.

> “ Inside coverings such as honeycomb blinds and lined curtains keep working through winter too, helping hold warmth in on frosty nights. Awnings retract, so you get the winter sun back.

A Note on Bushfire Season

The ACT bushfire season runs from 1 October to the end of March. If your home is in a bushfire-prone area and you're adding screens, check your property's Bushfire Attack Level first, as it decides what rating the screens need. Our security doors page covers the screen range.



TICK THEM OFF AS YOU GO

Your Summer Window Checklist

- [ ] Note which rooms get hot first on a sunny afternoon.
- [ ] Prioritise west-facing living areas and bedrooms.
- [ ] Add external shading where the afternoon sun hits the glass.
- [ ] Choose inside coverings for each room: sunscreen, blockout, honeycomb, shutters or lined curtains.
- [ ] Close up by mid-morning on hot days, and open up in the cool of the evening.
- [ ] Add security screens so you can leave windows open at night.
- [ ] If you're in a bushfire-prone area, confirm your BAL before buying screens.



FREE IN-HOME MEASURE & QUOTE

Need a Hand?

Elite Window Furnishings has fitted out more than 5,000 Canberra homes. Founded in 2018 and backed by 10 years of experience in the field. Every product we sell is custom made and installed by our own team. If you'd like advice for your own home, book a free in-home measure and quote. We'll look at which windows take the most sun and suggest options to suit each room and your budget.

CALL
(02) 5119 2542

EMAIL
sales@elitewf.com.au

SHOWROOM
4B/34 Wollongong Street, Fyshwick ACT 2609

WEB
elitewindowfurnishings.com.au