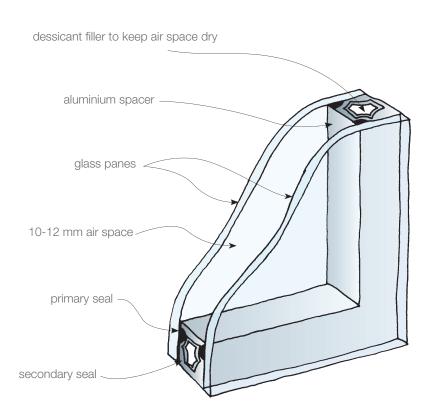


THE AUTHORITY ON SUSTAINABLE BUILDING





Typical insulating glass unit construction

Double glazing, more correctly called insulating glass units (IGUs), can have a significant effect on heat loss and condensation. IGUs can also reduce solar gain (especially if the unit incorporates tinted or reflective glass), and the transfer of noise.

The most common type of IGU is made up of two sheets of glass spaced apart by an aluminium hollow bar which is sealed to both sheets. The space between the sheets normally contains dry air, but some units have a partial vacuum or are fi lled with a gas (argon or krypton) to improve performance.

The heat transfer through windows can be reduced further by using low-E glass. This is glass with a microscopically thin, virtually (but not quite) invisible metallic coating which reduces radiant heat transfer through double-glazed units.