

# Window Tinting: 12 Things You Should Know Before Buying



**A Free eBook Provided By:**  
**Beverly Hills Window Tinting**

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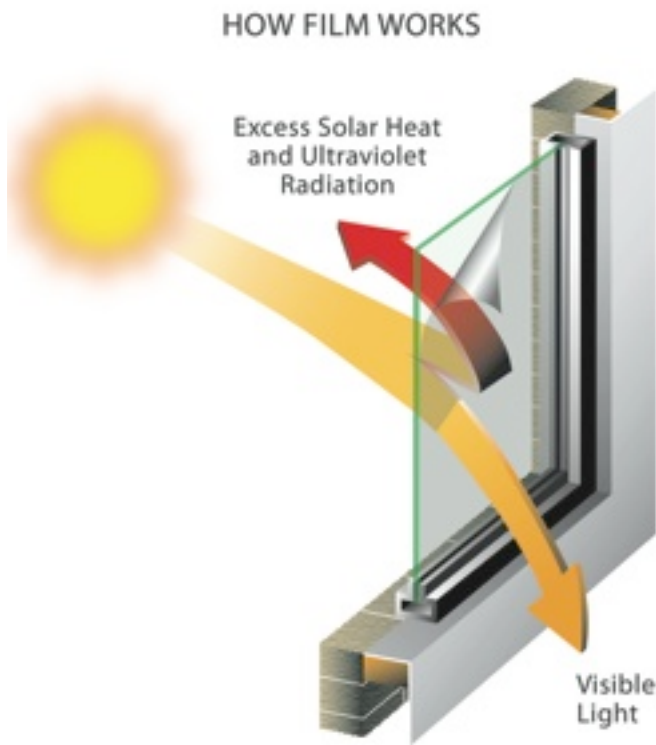
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## 1: What is Window Film and How Does it Work?



In the beginning, the command was given to “Let there be light”. Shortly thereafter, some very wise humans said, “Let there be tint!” We realize that, as human beings, we need sunlight to function and survive. It provides us with warmth, visibility, and photosynthesis. However, sometimes the amazing power of the sun needs to be toned down...just a tad!

That’s where the beauty of window tinting comes in. It allows you to appreciate the view, and the beautiful sunny days, without the harsh overpowering glare, heat, and UV rays. So, what exactly is window film, and how does it work?

Window tint is created when window film is bonded onto a piece of window glass.

Window film is usually made out of clear polyester film with a very thin and even layer of tinting agents such as dyes, metals, carbon, or ceramics deposited onto the film.

The science behind window tinting is not that complicated. It is basically the process of applying thin film to your glass window with a special type of bonding adhesive. The material of the film used depends on the type of tint, and the purpose it is intended for. Here are some examples of the various types of window films:

**Heat rejection film** – These are either dyed, ceramic, or metalized (which can be transparent to visible light) to convert incoming solar radiation to infrared radiation. This radiation is then rejected back through the glass to the exterior.

**Security film** – This is applied to prevent glass from shattering, and is typically used for commercial & residential glass to protect from storms and break ins. These films are made of heavy-gauge plastic and are intended to maintain the integrity of the glass when it is subjected to heavy impact.

**Privacy film** – This is designed to reduce visibility through the glass. It can be extremely dark, mirrored, frosted, or hundreds of different decorative designs.

To see more [photos](#) and learn more about the various types of window tinting for homes, businesses, and automobiles, visit [BHW tint.com](http://BHW tint.com)

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## 2: Residential Window Film



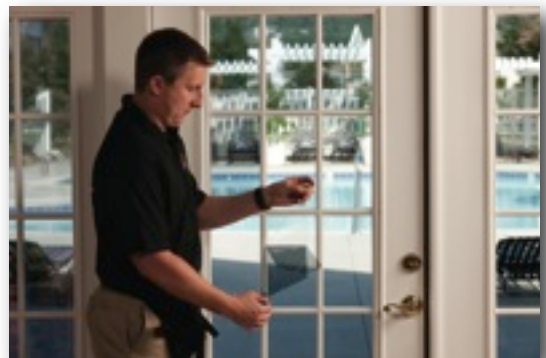
Window film is a way to defend the health and comfort of you and your family. Excessive exposure to direct sunlight can be very detrimental. It can cause eye damage, as well as premature aging through deterioration of the skin. It can even cause an increased risk of developing skin cancer.

But, who thinks to wear sun block inside their home or office? It's hard enough to remember to put it on when you are going out! Most people don't think about it when they are inside their own home or office. However, with only glass as a barrier between you and the sun's harsh ultraviolet rays, you are still susceptible to damage.

But, don't fret! There is a simple way to protect your family from the the sun's damaging UV rays when you are indoors. (Without having to apply sunscreen every time you walk into your living room.) Having your windows covered with a [residential window film](#), applied by professional window tinters, will allow you to enjoy a sunny room without the damaging affects. Window films can reduce the sun's UVA and UVB rays by over 99%. Don't increase your chances of getting skin related health problems when you can easily prevent it with something so simple. Save your sun exposure for the outdoors!

In addition to preventing harmful UV rays, having your home windows tinted will also:

- Keep rooms cool in warm months
- Prevent glare
- Reduce interior fading
- Increase privacy
- Increase protection from shattered glass
- Help to retain heat in cold months



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## 3: How Window Film Prevents Fading

Homeowners often overlook the subtle, gradual and powerful effects of the sun. In addition to its damaging affects to our skin, sunlight can also be very damaging to our possessions. When rooms are exposed to direct sunlight, it can cause fading and damage to the overall appearance of everything in the room, including:

**Furniture** – Have you ever gone to rearrange the furniture in your room, only to discover that your sofa has a large area of fading on the side that was closest to a window? Any furniture that is exposed to sunlight, even through windows, is at risk of fading. Sometimes the fading occurs evenly, so it is not as noticeable. However, the overall look has become drab. When you look at earlier dated pictures, you realize that the color may have faded drastically from the original shade it was when you purchased it.



**Drapery and Curtains** – Drapes, curtains, and fabrics are a beautiful accessory to a room. However, these [window treatments](#) can be a costly investment, so you want to ensure they're protected. Without window tinting, drapes and curtains are the first line of defense from the sun, so they will often incur the most damage. We've seen many cases of draperies that have been completely ruined by sun damage. Streaks are very evident where UV rays have bleached the color out of the fabric. In some cases, fabric may even begin to deteriorate.

**Floors** – Carpets and area rugs are also extremely susceptible to fading from the sun. You may end up having to replace carpet that has large areas of fading, or may have a valuable area rug ruined from constant exposure to UV light. Even hardwood floors fade or change shades over time. Like our own skin, wood's exposure to sunlight may greatly increase this process and cause permanent damage.

Other interiors that can be exposed to sun fading, damage, and deterioration include books, photographs, paintings, and other valuables. Tinting your home windows with a protective solar film prevents damaging ultraviolet rays from ruining the beautiful interior of your home. This allows you to enjoy your views, bask in your dayroom, and still let the sunlight into your home, while preventing the damaging affects.

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## 4: How Window Film Saves Electricity

If you've ever lived through a Summer in South Florida, you know that the heat becomes very intense! Between the heat and humidity, we take refuge in our homes, or jump from one air conditioned spot to the next in order to survive. This summer heat can raise the temperature in your home significantly. This forces your air conditioning unit to work twice as hard, therefore often doubling your electric bills. And, in warm climates such as South Florida, the heat and intense sunshine is not only limited to the Summertime...it permeates throughout the year!

### **Improve your comfort, finances, and your relationships!**

When we receive a utility bill that is higher than average, it's amazing how quickly we begin pointing fingers. If you live with your spouse, children, or a roommate, you may have had conversations that involved phrases such as:

- "Who keeps turning the air conditioner on?"
- "Stop turning down the thermostat!"
- "I think you left on every light in this house!"
- "Do you really need every fan on high?"
- "That's it, we're living by candlelight!"



When it's summertime in Florida, air conditioning accounts for nearly 80% of your electric bill. So, even though we may be very conscious of conserving energy, it's difficult to save money when the a/c is working so hard. Nobody wants to be told they can't turn the air conditioner cooler or turn the fans up when they are hot. Then, of course, the discomfort of the heat usually escalates these disagreements, creating a "heated conversation" in more ways than one.

Well, we have good news. There is a simple solution that will save your wallet, and your sanity! Having your home windows tinted not only saves you from the uncomfortable heat...but also saves you from the skyrocketing electricity bills. This, in turn, saves your family or roommates from the inevitable arguments that follow! (Well, at least the ones about the electric bill.)

In addition to reducing your air conditioning costs, window tinting can also decrease your electric bill through allowing you to use less electric lighting. Because it eliminates the glare and heat, you can take more advantage of the natural light, decreasing your need for lamps or overhead lighting during the day.

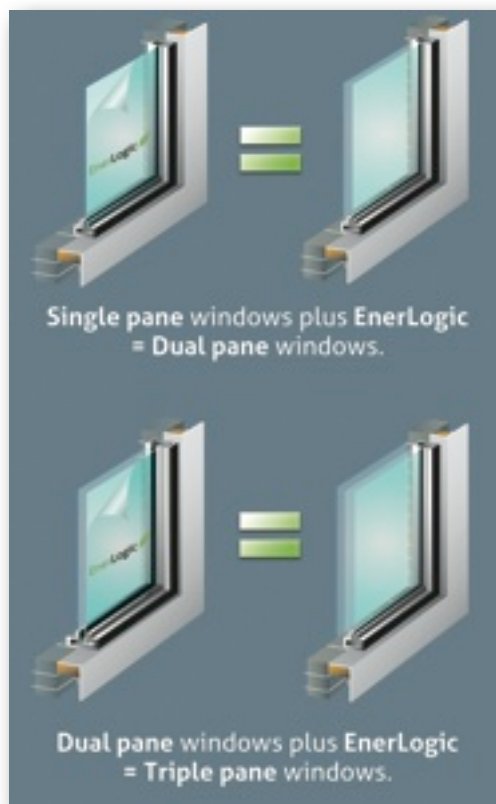
**[Save \\$100 on a residential or commercial tint](#) by signing up for Beverly Hills Window Tinting & Treatments' eNewsletter.**

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## 5: Go Green With Enerlogic

A building is only as energy-efficient as its windows. By having your home or business windows tinted, you're not only saving money on your electric bill and making your building more comfortable...you're also [going green](#)!

In the summer months, windows allow too much heat to enter, forcing cooling systems to work harder and making cooling costs climb. This uses a significant amount of energy and valuable resources. Having the windows of your home or office building tinted will reduce this heat significantly, thereby reducing your energy use and your carbon footprint! But, what about the winter months?



Many window films only provide a summer solution to energy conservation. However, in the winter, windows allow too much heat to escape, forcing heating systems to work harder and making heating costs climb. There is a new solution for this that allows you to “stay green” and “save green” all year long. The solution we are referring to is called [EnerLogic](#). EnerLogic is a window film that works all year long.

In the summer, EnerLogic keeps the heat out, like traditional reflective window film. However in the winter, EnerLogic has the ability to do what reflective film can't: It locks the heat inside. This allows you to achieve a perfect balance of energy efficiency, cost savings, and comfort – throughout the year. EnerLogic is categorized alongside other major energy-saving measures such as high-efficiency lighting, new control systems, and upgrades on heating, ventilation, a/c, and cooling.

In fact, using EnerLogic on your home or business windows will actually save you more than most of the alternatives in terms of return on investment. It is a low cost, high return technology that is becoming increasingly popular. In large commercial buildings, using EnerLogic actually **DOUBLES** the energy and carbon emission savings of darker, more reflective films.

What does it look like? Enerlogic has outstanding optical clarity that's fully compatible with high-efficiency lighting. Basically, it looks great in any light!

**To learn more about the energy saving benefits and year round benefits of this window film, view this [video](#) from Energologic.**

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## 6: Tax Credit for Window Tinting



As if it wasn't enough that you're saving money on electric bills, making your home more comfortable, adding a level of safety and privacy, AND "going green"...you also get a tax credit for tinting your home windows!

A provision in the recent Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Re authorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 has created a tax credit opportunity for window films installed in *residential structures*. Under the new policy, the qualifying credit is 10% of the film cost with a maximum total credit of \$500. The new policy went into effect January 1, 2011 and expires December 31, 2011.

A tax credit is more valuable than a tax deduction, because tax credits directly reduce your income tax. This is unlike a "deduction", which only reduces the amount of income subject to tax. A tax credit directly

increases the tax refund you receive or decreases the amount you have to pay. Claim Your Credit at [www.WindowFilmTaxCredit.com](http://www.WindowFilmTaxCredit.com)

Complete [IRS form 5695](http://www.irs.gov/efile) and file 2011 Income Tax Returns by April 15, 2012. You can download the appropriate forms at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), along with a list of other available energy efficiency tax credits. You should keep copies of the dealer invoice and the manufacturer's certification statement for your records.



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## 7: Duette Honeycomb Shades And Other Ideas for Going Green

Maybe you already have your windows tinted, with an energy efficient tinting, such as [Enerlogic](#), but you want to add another layer of insulation. A significant energy efficiency improvement for windows actually began with the invention of [Duette® honeycomb shades](#) in the mid-1980's. These feature air contained within the honeycomb cells of the shades, which provide an effective insulator. This keeps the heat inside during the winter, and out in summer.

The Duette brand has been immensely successful, and therefore inspired similar energy-saving innovations. These include:

- Silhouette® window shadings
- Vignette® Modern Roman Shades
- Luminette® Privacy Sheers
- Pirouette® window shadings

Recently, Duette has launched a new product that claims it is taking energy conservation to a whole new level. This product is the Duette Architella® honeycomb shades. What's better than the honeycomb pockets of air to insulate your home?? THREE honeycomb pockets of air! These shades feature a honeycomb-within-a-honeycomb design which forms three air pockets that dramatically reduce heat flow at the window.

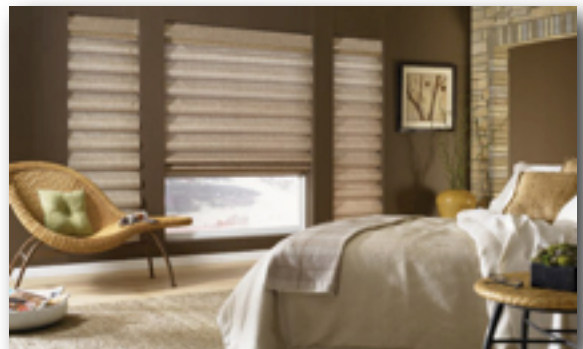
So, how much can window shades actually do for the environment? Well, if the Duette Architella honeycomb shades were installed in every window of every American home, it would potentially cut our annual energy consumption by 2½%. And, that's just based on window shades! If you combine the shades with window tint, or other energy saving efforts in your home, this number increases even more.



*Duettes*



*Privacy Sheers*



*Roman Shades*



*Silhouettes*

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## 8: Keeping Out Peeping Privacy Tinting and Window Treatments

Most people appreciate a little privacy in their home. But, nothing is worse than the feeling that you must have your shades always drawn in order to feel private and secure. Good news! Certain types of window tinting will allow you to enjoy privacy inside, without feeling like you're stuck in a cave or without sacrificing your beautiful view of great outdoors.

If you want to protect the privacy inside your home, choose a tint with a higher reflective rate. That way, you can see out but no one can see in. This limits the majority of visibility from the outside-in during the day. However, if you have the lights on inside at night, people may still be able to see in with the standard reflective tint, so it is still a good idea to close your blinds when it is dark outside.

In addition to privacy tinting, you may also consider adding [window treatments](#) to help prevent any “Peeping Toms”. Window treatments, such as blinds and drapery, can virtually transform the interior of a room. They add an element of style and elegance, and can help you create the perfect ambiance with just the right amount of natural lighting.

Here are some of the most popular styles of window treatments and blinds:

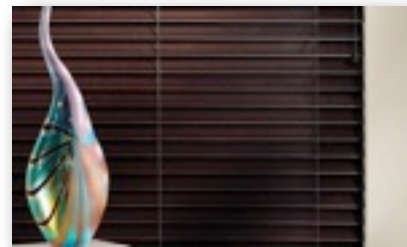
**Duettes** – Honeycomb shades are the proven leader in duettes, providing style and functionality. You can choose from a variety of fabric opacities from sheer to opaque, which maximize light control and privacy.

**Silhouettes** – Silhouette window shadings transform a room by turning the harsh exterior light into soft, radiant beauty. With shades lowered and vanes in open position, they provide 88% ultraviolet light protection. When vanes are closed, they provide up to 99% protection!

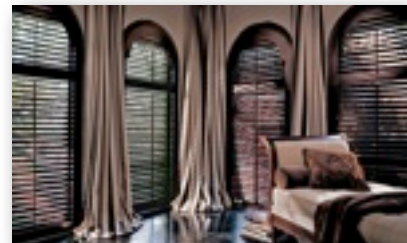
Other styles include natural shades, plantation shutters, wood blinds, pleated shades, and window panels.



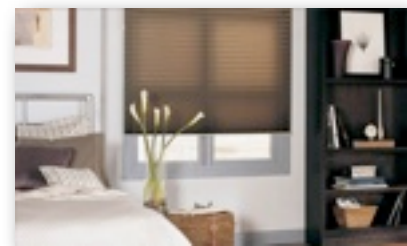
*Natural Shades*



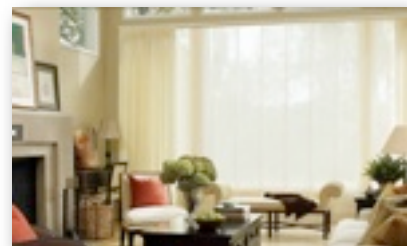
*Wood Blinds*



*Plantation Shutters*



*Pleated Shades*



*Window Panels*

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## 9: Automotive Window Film



Tinted windows serve a very important function in protecting you and your car from the damaging rays of the sun. If you live in Southwest FL, or any area with ample sunshine, you are all too familiar with the suffocating feeling of getting into a car that has been sitting out in the scorching sun for any period of time. If you do not have car tint on your windows, your automobile has transformed into an over sized oven. And, you're forced to crawl in. If you have leather seats, the hot surface is almost unbearable. The steering wheel may also get so hot that you are unable able to grip it with bare hands until the a/c has had a chance to cool the car.

Tinting your car windows is an easy solution! When you purchase a new vehicle, the windows have only a “factory tint”, which may reduce a small amount of glare, but is not sufficient in keeping your car interior protected from the sun or heat. You will need to have a [professional tint company](#) install a special [auto tint](#) on your windows that will provide the sun protection you need while driving, and will prevent your car from transforming into an easy-bake oven while it is parked. It can also help decrease injuries from glass breakage in accidents.

The film used for tinted windows is a polyester substrate with a scratch resistant coating on one side and a clear mounting adhesive on the other. When having tinted windows installed, there are many factors to consider.

Just like comparing a Hyundai to a Porsche, there are wide performance and cost differences in car tinting film. The cheapest tinting film may be much lower in price than a higher quality, more expensive film. However, you will soon discover that you get what you pay for.



A cheaper film may look nice initially, but they may bubble soon after installation, fail to lessen the summer heat, fade, or turn purple. Higher quality window films, such as metalized or ceramic window films, offer both advanced performance and a lifetime warranty. Therefore, these higher quality films are worth the higher price.

# Window Tinting – 12 Things You Should Know Before Buying

## 10: Tint Laws

Every state in the United States has separate [laws legislating window tinting](#). This is done in the interest of public safety. A professional window tinting company should be familiar with the laws in your area and should advise you accordingly when you are considering types of [vehicle tint](#).

Your tinting company should also be able to provide you with a certificate of compliance in case you get pulled over. If you are not within compliance, fines for overly tinted windows can run anywhere from \$50 to \$500.

Some states allow tinting on every window in the vehicle, provided you have side mirrors, while others outlaw tinting the windshield and two front windows. In Florida, tinting is permitted on all windows, with only a strip along the top permitted on the windshield.

The darkness of the tint is also legislated, and is measured by visible light transmission (VLT%). The VLT is defined as the percentage of visible light that makes it through the tint. [Florida tint laws](#) state that the tinting film for the front car windows must have:

“a total solar reflectance of visible light of not more than 25 percent as measured on the nonfilm side and a light transmittance of at least 28 percent in the visible light range.” The rear windows are permitted to have slightly darker tint.

Once your tinting company has explained the legally allotted types of tint, you will be able to choose from a light tint to the darkest shade allowed.

For recreational vehicles (RVs), boats and cars with sensitive navigational equipment, a non-metallic film should be used, as metallic films can cause interference. Many states significantly reduce the level of reflection that is allowed in reflective films, or will outlaw them altogether.

Most people will agree that window tinting is best left to professionals. You may come across some “do-it-yourself” window tint, or instructions online, but it is a risky undertaking that can completely ruin the look of your car if not done correctly.

Professional tinting not only looks better, but will last longer and is guaranteed. A professional will also make sure the tint job is legal and should provide a warranty so that it can be fixed if anything goes wrong.

**For information on tint laws in your area, or for a quote on [vehicle window tinting](#), call Beverly Hills Window Tinting at 239.592.5536 in Naples or 239.489.3838 in Fort Myers. Take advantage of a [\\$20 coupon](#) for any full-car tinting service when you subscribe to Beverly Hills’ eNewsletter.**

# Window Tinting – 12 Things You Should Know Before Buying

## 11: Caring For and Cleaning Tinted Windows

After you've made the wise investment to have your auto, home, or business windows tinted, it's important to ensure you're properly caring for it. It's not difficult, but there are a few things you should know.

### Automotive

**DRYING TIME:** Your new window tint will take about 3-5 days to be dry enough to roll the windows down and can take up to 30 days to completely cure: depending on film type and weather conditions. Until this time your tinted windows may appear hazy or blistery and it may seem to have water bubbles. DO NOT roll windows down until they are completely dry.

**CLEANING:** DO NOT clean the windows for the first 7 days. Window film may be cleaned with paper towels and plain soap and water. Ammonia and alcohol products should not be used. Window film cleaning products are sold at BHWT.

**SEAT BELT CHIPS:** Caution should be used when releasing the seat belt. Small chips or holes can be made in the window film due to the seat belt hitting the glass when released. This is one of the most common things to happen to window film.

### Residential / Commercial

**DRYING TIME:** Your new window tint will take approximately 30 days to cure. During the first 30 days you may see some blistering and a hazy appearance. This is normal and temporary condition from the water used in applying the film. Once the moisture dries this condition will go away.

Windows in direct sunlight will dry faster. Windows in shady areas or under lanais will dry slower.

You will notice a thin white line (exposed glass area) between the edge of the film and the window frame. It is essential that this area be maintained to allow room for excess moisture to escape.



**CLEANING:** DO NOT clean the windows for the first 30 days. Window film may be cleaned with paper towels and plain soap and water. Ammonia and alcohol products are safe on most of these products, however consult your window film professional. Window film cleaning products for autos, residences, and businesses are sold at BHWTInc.

Window films at BHWT have a scratch resistant coating, however this does not mean they are scratch proof. Metal objects such as rings, watches, metal back chairs and other furniture or sharp objects can scratch the window film.

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### 12: Lifespan and Warranty of Window Tinting



[Automotive Window Tinting](#), if properly installed by tinting professionals, has a warranty of 1 year, 3 years, or lifetime warranty depending on which film is used.

Beverly Hills Window Tinting film division warrants the products specified above against cracking, peeling, or demetalizing for the periods specified above when properly installed in a vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended installation procedures.

[Residential Window Tinting](#), if properly installed by tinting professionals, has a warranty / lifespan of 5 years, 10 years, or lifetime warranty depending on which film is used.

BHWT window films are warrantied against cracking, peeling, demetalizing, bubbling delaminating or discoloring when properly installed according to the manufacturer's film to glass recommendations on suitable interior surfaces of glass windows by a duly authorized dealer.



[Commercial Window tinting](#), if properly installed by tinting professionals, has a warranty / lifespan of 5 years, 10 years, or 15 years, depending on the type of tint. BHWT window films are warrantied against cracking, peeling, demetalizing, bubbling delaminating or discoloring when properly

installed according to the manufacturer's film to glass recommendations on suitable interior surfaces of glass windows by a duly authorized dealer.

**When searching for and choosing a window tinting specialist, do your homework. Is this company licensed and insured? What's their reputation like in the community? Sites such as [QualityServicePros.com](http://QualityServicePros.com) in Southwest Florida, can help you find reputable window tinting contractors. Look for sites like this in your city.**



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