

Alitherm 400 - Bead Options Explained



Default Option: Alitherm 400 HYBRID

Our default option will have internal beads on any sashes (opening vents), and external beads on the fixed panes. Our standard hybrid window comes with the Quick-Glaze bead as standard.

We believe this gives the best overall option, as you can benefit from the time-saving Quick-Glaze beads without the extra cost of dummy sashes in any fixed panes.



External Bead Option: Alitherm 400x

This option has external beads on both the sashes and fixed panes. Although it is marginally cheaper than the hybrid option, it does not come with the Quick-Glaze beads and will require wedge gasket installation.

For the tiny difference in cost, there is no reason to go for this option unless a project specifically requires external beads.



Internal Bead Option: Alitherm 400i

The 400i internal beading option means that the window has no visible beads on the outside. This system will come with the Quick-Glaze bead.

Please note that the 400i will require dummy sashes in any fixed panes, so this system will cost more depending on window styles. Also consider that a dummy sash will mean the glass lines through perfectly in each pane, but it does reduce the visible glass area.

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How do I know which option to go for?

As a general rule, if you have no specific requirements then we recommend our default hybrid option. This is the best overall balance as the price is almost the same as the cheapest external bead option, but you get the benefit of the Quick-Glaze bead which could potentially save you hours of labour time.

If you want the glass lines to run through equal on all panes (similar to the look of a flush sash window), you may want to consider the 400i internal bead option. This will cost a little more as there are more sashes to make, hence more material.

Are external beads secure?

External beads are very common on aluminium windows, and don't have the same security concerns that uPVC windows did with external beads. Having said that, to achieve PAS24 we need to manufacture any external beaded window with glass security clips. You can always ask for this upgrade if you are concerned about security.

What is the Smart Quick-Glaze bead and why is everybody so excited about it?

The Quick-Glaze bead is an innovative new beading system from Smart Aluminium. It is currently only available on the Alitherm 400 window and door range, as well as the Smart Visofold 1000 bi-folding door. Currently, there are hardly any aluminium windows on the market with this bead type (although other suppliers will be quickly following suit)!

A traditional aluminium window must have wedge gasket cut by hand and inserted between the bead and the glass, which is a laborious job to say the least. The Quick-Glaze bead eliminates this, as the gasket is pre-extruded into the bead, so it can simply be clipped into place to glaze the window or door.

This can literally save hours of time on site depending on the size of the job, so you can see why installers are so pleased this product has come along. Other systems are starting to release similar 'tap-in' beads, although some others have the gasket extruded against plastic rather than aluminium, which some believe will move over time and cause issues. Nobody has invested the time or money into this product that Smart Aluminium have, and as the worlds leading aluminium extruder, you can be confident the product is fit for purpose.



Normally to glaze this window you'd have to cut sections of wedge gasket and press it in-between the bead and glass by hand - not a nice job. With the Quick-Glaze bead, you can simply tap the beads into place.