



National Federation of Glaziers

Excellence and Integrity in Glazing

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A BRIEF GUIDE TO BUYING A CONSERVATORY

Please read carefully - this guide may save you much time and expense!

When buying a conservatory, consider these six key areas to ensure you get the best value:

1. Product Quality

2. Installation Standards

3. Guarantee

4. Design

5. Pricing and Payment

6. Foundations and basework.

1. A myriad of British Standards may apply fully or partially to a product. Fully reinforced frames are essential to prevent distortion and provide structural stability to the windows and doors throughout the conservatory's lifespan. They should be standard for all projects. If security is a priority, high-security locking systems on doors and windows are a must. The roof, often the conservatory's most costly component, requires structural calculations from the manufacturer. Verify that you receive a high-quality roofing system, the details of which can be provided by the installer.

2. Installers may work as subcontractors or exclusively for the quoting company. It's crucial to understand their payment structure, whether it's piece rates (per window/door) or hourly/daily wages.

3. A detailed quotation and a guarantee backed by insurance are vital in case the company goes out of business. We often hear from consumers about worthless guarantees, and we don't want that for you - companies of any size can fail for various reasons.

4. Conservatory design demands expert advice; purchasing "off the shelf" is fraught with risk. Numerous criteria and significant expertise are required to create a conservatory that meets all needs. A wide range of materials can produce different effects, and additional accessories may or may not be necessary or cost-effective. 5. You can pay too much or too little for anything, of course, **but our advice is that you should never buy from companies who initially offer a high price, and then offer discounts on the first visit. "High pressure"**

tactics are not permitted from any member of the Federation. Check all details before entering into a contract, do not rely upon verbal assurances from representatives.

5. It is customary for stage payments to be made for the conservatory project. **It is crucial that all advance payments are protected against any financial difficulties the company may encounter, including insolvency.** All members of the Federation must adhere to our Commitment to Good Practice, which stipulates that deposits should not be used for the business's trading activities. Furthermore, we offer a Contract Deposit Guarantee Scheme to protect any advance payments made to a member.

6. In most cases, Building Regulations Approval is not required for the construction of a conservatory. However, if you are hiring someone to undertake the base work, ensure you verify who is responsible for this critical part of the project and ask for references of previous similar work.

Before entering into any contract, verify all details and do not depend solely on verbal assurances from sales representatives. If you have any questions or require impartial advice, please feel free to contact us.

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