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The Good Veranda Guide



Your guide to choosing the perfect veranda solution



Welcome...

Buying a veranda is a big investment, and with so many different options available on the market today, it can seem like a very daunting task.

That's why we have created this guide, to help you make an informed decision and choose the perfect system to suit your needs.

This comprehensive guide will take you through all the different options available to you and provide advice to enable you to identify what to look for when choosing your veranda, including the various features that you should choose and avoid.

We offer two solutions; the Designo S6 and the Alfresco. Both of these options are very different to enable our verandas to suit all requirements, the Alfresco is a contemporary structure that features a large span of up to 6m whilst the Designo S6 is a more traditional style structure. Both products can be covered with a choice of polycarbonate or glass.

We hope you find this guide useful and enjoy your veranda after your purchase.

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Construction Styles

When you start looking at the types of verandas that are available on the market, the first thing that you will probably notice is the types of designs on offer.

There is not necessarily a good or bad design of a veranda, it simply depends on what suits your needs, what appearance you are going for and the size of the area you wish to cover. It's always good to bear in mind that the design can also affect the rigidity of the structure.

Wall Mounted (Also known as lean-to)

Wall mounted verandas are the most cost effective and popular design. You will benefit from additional weather protection because it is fixed to your house, therefore all sides are not exposed to the weather because they are attached to your home. You will be protected from the rain when entering your garden, whether it's to sit and relax outside without getting wet or for tasks you can't avoid such as putting the bins out.

Wall Mounted verandas tend to have the strongest design due to the front posts and the joining to your house/bungalow.



Cantilever

A cantilever veranda is designed so that the structure is supported from one side, and no other support is required. This means the area is more open, with no posts, however make sure to check all necessary wind and snow loading calculations have been performed to ensure the veranda is structurally sound. We recommend that you seek professional advice from an independent structural engineer.

Cantilevered designs also tend to have smaller projections which means that you cannot cover large areas, always bear this in mind.

Free Standing

Free standing verandas offer flexibility as they do not need to be fixed to a supporting wall and you can therefore install them almost anywhere in your garden. However, because they have more posts they can be expensive and tend to be a little costlier.

But on the other hand, if you require a freestanding canopy in your garden such as for cover over hot tubs, then the extra money is worth it.



Construction Materials

The framework of a veranda will affect both the appearance, durability and longevity of the structure. There are many materials to choose from and it is important to choose one which will fit in with your home style. It's just as important however, to choose one that will last for many years to come to make sure your investment is a worthwhile one.

PVC

PVC is used by a large amount of glazing companies because it is mass produced and is therefore relatively cheap. It is also reasonably maintenance free and looks good for a period of time. However, it does need maintaining and it expands and contracts depending on its exposure to sunlight and it can create leaks in your roof if not professionally installed.



Steel

Steel is a very strong material that creates very robust structures. However, it can be expensive and needs treating, either by powder coating or galvanising to stop the structure rusting. It also needs regular inspections and maintenance to prolong its life and it will rust easily if not maintained correctly. Steel has a high carbon footprint due to the energy used to produce it; however, it is 100% recyclable.

Timber

As it is a natural product and a renewable source, timber is the most environmentally friendly product. Timber verandas are relatively good value however if untreated they can rot and there is a risk of warping, splitting or bending if not treated or installed correctly. Glu-laminated timber offers greater tensile strength relative to steel and is corrosion resistant, however this is a much more expensive option than aluminium.



Aluminium

Aluminium is a very durable metal, which is also strong and lightweight and is 100% recyclable. It is a very cost effective construction material as it has a 25-year life expectancy and is resistant to corrosion in most environments. It only requires minimal maintenance and will stay in good condition for many years. This material is perfect for verandas and is easy to install.



At a Glance Comparison

Material	Low Cost	Durability	Strength	Corrosion & Rot Resistant	Value for Money	Colour Options	Life Expectancy	Low Maintenance?
PVC	****	**	***	*****	**	****	*	****
Steel	*	****	*****	**	***	*****	****	**
Aluminium	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Timber	**	***	****	**	**	***	****	**

- * Very Poor
- ** Poor
- *** Satisfactory
- **** Good
- ***** Excellent

Roof Panel Materials

It is important that the materials you choose for your veranda are going to perform over time with the climatic conditions that we experience in UK. At present the most popular roofing materials used for verandas are GRP, polycarbonate and glass.

Polycarbonate

**Advantages:**

- Very high impact resistance - virtually unbreakable
- Available translucent, opal or bronze
- Up to a 25-year life expectancy
- Many varieties offer high UV protection
- Cost effective
- Excellent structural performance
- Maintains strength and colour over time
- Self-extinguishing properties
- Effective resistance to all weather
- Keeps the area underneath cool on hot days.

**Disadvantages:**

- Unlike glass, you will not have a clear view of the sky, unless you choose solid polycarbonate which is clear
- The polycarbonate will resonate during downpours and can become quite noisy

Glass

**Advantages:**

- Good acoustic properties – less noise in heavy rainfall
- Clean polished finish
- Completely clear – perfect for star gazing and bird watching
- High-class appearance

**Disadvantages:**

- Slightly costlier
- Safety risk only if the panels are not high quality, toughened glass
- Little or no UV protection, however it can be fitted with a UV filter upon request

GRP (also known as FRP)

**Advantages:**

- Similar appearance to Glass
- Can be translucent or opaque, plus multiple colours available too
- Can be covered with a UV stabilized layer to provide UV protection

**Disadvantages:**

- Sunlight can cause clear GRP roofs to discolour and coloured panels to fade and deteriorate
- Lower impact resistance than Polycarbonate
- Shorter life span than some other options – approx. 10 years
- The surface of this material is often rough therefore difficult to clean and needs more maintenance than other roofing materials.

Overall Appearance

The appearance of your veranda is very important. The perfect veranda will fit in with the exterior of your home or contrast with it in a complementary fashion.

If you have an older house, or one built in a period style, then a modern canopy may not fit well. Alternatively, a modern house may not look right if a more traditional style veranda is added to it. It's always worth researching which styles would look best with your property.

All of our structures have a sleek modern appearance however, once paired with our Victorian Upgrade, they are instantly transformed into traditional, decorative structures.



The Designo S6



The Designo S6 with the Victorian Upgrade

Colour Options

Most verandas are available in a choice of colours. If you would like your veranda to blend in well with your building, choosing a colour which matches your windows, fascia's, wall colour or any other external feature can make the veranda look as though it is part of the original build.



If you would like this look, then check with your veranda supplier before purchasing to see if they offer the colour you would like, if not, it can change the appearance significantly and affect how it fits in with your outside area.

We can powder coat our verandas to any RAL or BS colour code, making our choice of colours almost endless with over 350 colours to choose from!



Heating and Lighting

Adding extras to your veranda can make all the difference, they can encourage you to stay outside longer with the convenience of their features, enabling you to get more use out of your veranda and garden all year round.

Heaters

Outside heaters are the perfect accessory for your veranda. We all love sitting outside on a warm summers evening, but seem to avoid this in the other months.

Autumn spring and even winter can be just as enjoyable to sit outside of an evening with the added luxury of heaters. You can sit outside and watch the snowfall without getting wet or too cold, you can sit outside listening to rain fall whilst keeping dry and you can listen to the leaves rustling in the trees in the autumn without the chill of the wind biting your skin.

Our range of heaters are wall mounted so they do not take up much room at all. They generate a comforting glow of heat that warms you gently making you feel perfectly cosy.



Lights

Lighting is another accessory that enables you to extend the use of your veranda. They enable you to stay outside longer during the colder months when it starts to get dark early. You can also see what you are doing outside in the mornings if you are an early bird and like to make the most of your day by venturing outside early.

Our Alfresco veranda can be installed with integrated lighting strips that are un-noticeable until they are turned on. Other lighting options can be affixed to our verandas to add a beneficial, convenient and contemporary feature to your outside structure.



Other Important Elements to Consider

Guttering and Downpipes

Always opt for a veranda that includes guttering and downpipes; this will ensure rainwater is directed to a specific location rather than running off the roof haphazardly and causing puddles around your veranda.

Wind and Snow Loadings

It is very important that you choose a veranda design that has been calculated to conform to the correct wind and snow loadings for your area. All of our verandas have been calculated to conform to UK wind and snow loadings.



Hailstone Resistance

Although they don't happen every day, hailstone storms can cause considerable damage so it is best to make sure the veranda you are considering is resistant to hailstones. The roof is the most likely part to be damaged by hailstones so we recommend choosing a roofing material that has a high impact resistance.

Building Regulations & Planning Permission

A veranda (which is open on at least two sides) would not normally require building regulations if the floor space is less than 30 sq m. However, we would recommend speaking to your local building control officer(s) to confirm the exact requirements for your local authority.

Similarly, verandas under 35m do not usually require planning permission, however this is dependent on your property's exact location. It is advisable to contact your local planning authority to check the specific planning requirements for your area.

Cost

The cost of a veranda will most likely influence your choice however, it is not always best to go for the cheapest option unless you are satisfied that the veranda is a good quality and will last long enough to give you value for money. Spending a little more on a veranda that has been constructed from superior materials will be much more cost effective in the long term.



Guarantee

As a veranda is a fairly big investment, it is wise to choose a product that will last and offers the best value for money. A veranda that comes with a good guarantee is a reliable indicator that it has been designed to last and the company is confident in the structure's durability.



Benefits of a Veranda

A veranda offers many benefits to you and your home including:

- **Extends your living space** – A veranda creates an additional living area within your property that can be enjoyed all year round with the addition of heaters and lights
- **Convenient weather protection** – Verandas are permanent structures that offer continuous weather protection so you no longer have to drag the umbrella in and out of the shed with the seasons
- **Versatile** – As well as using your veranda for living space, you can also store outdoor equipment such as BBQ's, furniture and toys while protecting them from tree sap, bird droppings, rain, snow and UV rays (if a UV protective roof panels is chosen)
- **Adds value to your home** - If you choose a high quality structure that fits in with your property, you can add value to your home
- **Free-flow weather protection** – You can flow from your house to your garden without the weather affecting you, this is ideal for small jobs such as putting the bins out and recycling
- **Become a party host** – You can host outdoor parties, gatherings and BBQ's without worrying that the event may get rained off. If it does rain, just move everyone under the canopy instead of indoors which can create a cramped atmosphere and end up with wet/grassy feet all over your carpets
- **High UV protection** – Keeping protected from the sun is important for health reasons, and if you choose a veranda with a UV protective filter, you can enjoy the outdoors without worrying. Please note, we will always advise you to still apply sun protection when staying outside for long periods of time
- **Star gaze** – Verandas with clear, glass roof panels allow you to romantically star gaze of and evening whilst keeping sheltered from the weather
- **Enjoy watching birds** – If you enjoy watching birds, you can also enjoy this hobby whilst sitting under a glazed veranda
- **Protect your timber decking** – If you have timber decking, a veranda can prolong the life of your decking making it look newer for longer between maintenance
- **Enjoy arts and crafts outside** – Painting and drawing outside can become much more enjoyable and inspirational for adults, verandas allow you to do so without a sudden downpour ruining your masterpiece. Children can also enjoy arts and crafts outside and there is less risk of your carpet or walls being 'decorated' in the process
- **Work in your garden** - If you work from home, you can sit outside with your laptop whilst keeping sheltered from the weather
- **Gardening** – You can start of seedlings and enjoy potting under your canopy even when it's rainy outside, enabling you to still complete your seasonal garden jobs.



Our Recommendation

With all the elements of this guide in mind, we have developed two cutting edge veranda solutions that are cost effective and quick to install with 10 year guarantees and 25 year life expectancies.

The Designo S6 is a traditional veranda that is covered with a choice of 6mm toughened glass or 6mm solid, clear polycarbonate. It can be transformed into a decorative structure with the addition of our Victorian Upgrade that has ornamental post sleeves, feet and gallows brackets.

The Alfresco is covered with a choice of 8mm toughened glass or 35mm structured polycarbonate. It has a modern appearance with chunky framework and posts and features an impressive projection of up to 6m with 6m between posts, leaving your view uninterrupted.

Both structures feature fully aluminium frameworks and hidden, integral guttering. They have been engineered to conform to UK wind and snow loadings.



The Alfresco

The Designo S6

Why Choose Our Verandas?

- **Quality** - They are manufactured by a leader in the industry that has over 25 years' experience in the manufacturing of verandas
- **Strength** - An aluminium construction ensures these products are strong and robust and are designed to be outside in all weathers. all year round
- **Guarantees** - Our verandas all hold 10 year guarantees and 25-year life expectancies
- **Choice of Roof Materials** - Roof materials vary across the range, they include vandal and shatter resistant polycarbonate that offers high UV protection and toughened safety glass that has a high class appearance
- **Different Styles** - Opt for one of our modern verandas or transform them into traditional looking structure with the Victorian Upgrade
- **Optional Extras** - Lights, heaters and even speakers can be added to our verandas, just ask for details.



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Verandas, Glass Rooms, Carports and Canopies

