

Visible Transmittance — What Does VT Really Mean?

Milestone Windows and Doors | 1–2 Minute Homeowner Presentation

When you're shopping for replacement windows, one of the ratings you may see is called **VT, or Visible Transmittance**.

And this one is actually pretty simple.

VT tells you how much natural, visible light is coming through your window.

The higher the VT number, the more natural light you're going to get inside your home. The lower the VT number, the less visible light comes through, and the glass may look a little darker.

For example, a window with a VT around **.50** is going to allow noticeably more natural light into the home than a window with a VT around **.30**.

But here's where people sometimes get confused: **Higher does not necessarily mean better.**

We're in Texas. We have a tremendous amount of sunlight hitting our windows, especially during the summer. So while we want plenty of natural light, we also don't want all that solar heat pouring into the house.

That's where the **Low-E coating and the overall glass package** become important.

Some high-performance Low-E coatings are specifically designed to reduce solar heat coming through the glass. And when you increase that solar protection, you may also reduce the amount of visible light coming through the window.

So it's a balancing act.

We want enough VT to keep your home feeling bright and natural, but we also want the proper glass package to help control **heat and glare** and improve the overall energy efficiency of your home.

Think of VT as the brightness rating of your window.

Higher number = more visible light

Lower number = less visible light

But don't shop for a window based on VT alone.

At **Milestone Windows and Doors**, we're looking at VT along with the Low-E coating, solar heat gain, U-Factor, and the entire glass package to make sure you're getting the right window for your home and for our Texas climate.

Don't overpay. Don't delay. Call Milestone today!