

Australian-designed 240-volt electric window operators: easier to install, safe and reliable

Thankfully, in the 21st century, we understand how critical windows are to building design: they deliver the daylight and fresh air vital for building occupants' wellbeing.

To enhance a building's natural ventilation and energy efficiency, windows can automatically open and shut according to climatic conditions or exchange air overnight. Or open and close at the touch of a button to allow occupants to control windows that would otherwise be challenging to operate efficiently.

The integration of electric window systems enables this convenience and practicality.

However, not all electric window mechanisms are equal in the Australian market. Some can add extra cost to projects, cause delays, and may not offer long-term reliability.

Nearly all electric window chain mechanisms available in Australia are 24-volt rather than 240-volt. So, when it comes to installation, they fall into a grey area between window fabricators and electricians as to who is responsible for installing and connecting the low voltage cabling for these systems.

When 24-volt systems are used, a window fabricator is responsible for running the cabling and connecting the system as an electrician's 240-volt scope of works do not cover them. Most window fabricators are not qualified or equipped for electrical installations, which can cause unnecessary delays and headaches on sites.

An Australian window control specialist has identified this issue and developed two types of 240-volt electric chain window operators that electricians can work with.

Queensland-based Unique Window Services has specialised in supplying and installing window control equipment for over 20 years. Its product range promotes passive ventilation and dramatically reduces cooling costs, and minimises a building's carbon footprint.

It is also the only Australian supplier of 240-volt electric chain window operators with C-Tick certification and responsible supplier program registration.

Managing director Shane Grice says the products are designed to make the installation of electric window operators fast, easy, safe and reliable.

The Aura 240 RF version has a remote-control hand-held transmitter that can be reprogrammed to operate multiple operators from the same transmitter. Fitted with a three-pin plug, this operator can plug directly into an extension lead, and the transmitter can open and close the window during the installation process.

The Aura 240 version is designed for control via a wall switch or a home automation system. This unit uses a test box plugged into an extension lead - the motor plugs into the test box with switches to open and close this motor.

Once the windows are installed, the electricians remove the plugs from the operators and hard wire them into the 240-volt circuits they have provided.

Shane says both 240-volt versions eliminate the need for low volt cabling and switching, which only a licensed electrician can install.

Both electric window operators have Australian Standard wiring colour codes, so even without a wiring diagram, a licensed electrician will understand how to connect them.

