

Use of External Blinds to Keep a House Cool

Renew had last year an article about external blinds keeping your house cool. We used to have bamboo-style outside blinds. They worked, however the problem with them is that they do not last that long and you cannot see through them. When our canvas awning blinds which have also the see-through problem, needed to be replaced we chose the “sunshade” material. At other places around the house the “bamboo” rollup blinds we replaced with Coolaroo rolldown blinds. The ones in the photos were installed in 2006, so they lasted much longer than the bamboo ones. What we did was to remove the steel bar and the rubber bead from the bottom so the blind can flop around in the wind with damaging whatever they hit. To have anchor points in the pavement to hold the blind in place would be a trip hazard when the blind is rolled up. The blinds are only down when the sun is on the building.

We are living in a Californian bungalow in Perth with a veranda at the front covered by a concrete canopy. Here we installed same type of blinds but used anchors in the floor to keep the blinds from flopping around. Used some rubber straps to provide some movement and tension to keep the blinds in place. In addition we painted the top of the canopy white with leftover paint. Doing these two things have made a difference in summer at that part of the house.



“sunshade” awnings



Coolaroo pulldown blinds



Blinds flopping in the wind



Rubber straps to anchors