

Most of us don't think about our windows until something fogs, sticks, or starts leaking heat. Double glazing quietly does its job for years, then suddenly you notice a cold draft by the sofa or a milky haze between panes that never wipes off. That's the moment you start asking what it will cost to set things right, whether repairs are worth it, and how to tell a small fix from a bigger project. I've spent enough time around fitters, fabricators, and homeowners with chilly living rooms to know the pitfalls and the good options. A repair can be excellent value, but only if you match the problem to the right remedy.

This guide walks through the real numbers, the decision points that matter, and a few rule-of-thumb checks you can do before you call anyone. Along the way, I'll [Double Glazing Repairs](#) [CST Double Glazing Repairs](#) cover common queries like Can you Fix Blown Double Glazing and what Misted Double Glazing Repairs actually involve.

What you're paying for when you repair double glazing

A double-glazed window is not one thing, it's a system. Each part brings its own failure modes and its own fix. When a quote lands in your inbox, it reflects more than glass and a bit of sealant.

- **Materials.** This includes the sealed glass unit, gaskets, draught-proofing strips, hinge sets, handles, locking gearboxes, and sometimes trickle vents or packers. A standard-sized, clear, argon-filled double-glazed unit with low-e coating typically costs a contractor between 60 and 150 GBP depending on size and spec, then gets marked up.
- **Labour.** A simple unit swap or hinge change might be under an hour for a skilled fitter. Tricky access, painted-over beads, or warped frames stretch that time. Many firms have a minimum call-out charge, often around 60 to 100 GBP.
- **Access and risk.** Upper floors, tiles beneath the window, or fragile internal finishes mean more care, more time, possibly a second person. That adds cost even if the parts are cheap.
- **Overheads and warranty.** Good firms price in a return visit if something beds in or slips. You're buying peace of mind, not just a pane of glass.

Keep those categories in mind as we dig into specific issues. It helps explain why two quotes for the same-looking problem can differ by 30 or 40 percent.

Diagnosing the problem without a toolbox

You can often narrow the repair plan with a few home checks.

Look closely at the fog. If you see condensation between the panes that never clears, the perimeter seal on the insulated glass unit (IGU) has failed. That's what people mean by blown double glazing. Wiping the inside and outside won't touch it. If the condensation is only on the room side of the inner pane, think humidity and ventilation first, not a failed unit.



Open and close the window. If it catches at the bottom corner or the handle takes force to lock, worn hinges or misaligned sashes are likely. On PVC frames you might see a small gap on the hinge side when closed. Aluminium and timber frames show similar symptoms, though timber adds the possibility of swelling.

Feel for drafts by the gasket. Run a damp hand around the frame on a windy day. A chill often means perished gaskets or ill-fitting beads. Sometimes it's as simple as a loose compression setting on the hinges.

Check the glass for visible cracks or chips on the edges. Tiny edge chips can grow, especially on toughened glass. If the unit still looks clear but has a small, sharp-edged chip, mark it with tape and plan a replacement before winter.

Listen to the lock. A smooth turn with resistance near the end is normal. Grinding or a handle that spins freely suggests a failed gearbox or broken spindle. Good news: these parts are replaceable without changing the whole sash.



These small observations steer you toward the right type of Double Glazing Repairs and help you filter unrealistic quotes.

Blown units, misted views, and what a fix really entails

Let's tackle the most common question straight on: Can you Fix Blown Double Glazing? Yes, in the practical sense that you can restore clarity and performance, but not by repairing the existing sealed unit. Once the perimeter seal fails, moisture and airborne dust migrate into the cavity. The desiccant inside the spacer saturates, and the low-emissivity coating can stain. There isn't a reliable, lasting way to re-seal a used IGU and dry it back to factory spec in situ. The durable fix is to replace the sealed unit only, not the entire window frame.

Here's how that usually plays out. A fitter measures the visible glass size and the rebate depth, identifies spacer thickness, gas fill preference, and whether toughened or laminated safety glass is required. A reputable glazier also checks compliance with safety locations such as doors, low-level glazing, or bathrooms. The new unit is made to size, typically in 3 to 7 working days for standard units and 1 to 2 weeks for shaped, large, or specialty coated glass. On fitting day, the technician removes the beads, eases out the old unit, clears the setting blocks, drops in

the new glass with packers to keep it square, reinstalls the beads, and seals if needed. Most swaps take 30 to 60 minutes.

What [Cat Flap Installation CST Double Glazing Repairs](#) about Misted Double Glazing Repairs that advertise drilling holes to vent moisture and fitting valves? I've seen this tried on older units in commercial settings. It can clear the mist for a while by letting the cavity breathe, and it's cheaper upfront. But you trade away the sealed system, you invite further contamination, and you permanently alter the thermal performance. In a domestic setting where comfort and energy bills matter, that's a false economy unless the unit is near end of life and you just need a short-term improvement.

Typical costs to replace a misted or blown unit:

- Small, clear, standard spec (say 400 by 600 mm): 80 to 120 GBP supplied and fitted.
- Medium sash size (around 600 by 900 mm): 120 to 180 GBP.
- Large lounge window (1000 by 1200 mm and up): 180 to 320 GBP.
- Add 20 to 40 percent for toughened or laminated glass, intricate shapes, or special coatings. Triple glazing or acoustic laminates push higher.

Local market rates vary, and access might adjust the labour. If you're getting numbers wildly outside these ranges, ask the firm to itemise glass cost versus labour and access.

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When the frame stays and the glass goes, you save

The biggest misconception is that a blown unit means a brand-new window. In many cases the frame is sound. PVC, aluminium, and well-kept timber frames can take new units without trouble. Keeping the frame saves hundreds. You keep the aesthetic, avoid redecorating, and reduce waste. Energy performance returns to baseline if you match like-for-like spec, and often you can improve it by upgrading the spacer and coating while keeping the old frame. For example, replacing an older clear double-glazed unit with a modern low-e, argon-filled unit with a warm-edge spacer can shave 0.3 to 0.6 W/m²K off the centre-pane U-value. In a draft-free, reasonably airtight home, that's a noticeable comfort gain on cold evenings.

One caveat: if frames are warped, waterlogged, or UV-brittled, a new unit will sit in a poor home. On PVC look for discolouration and chalking, on timber probe for softness at the lower corners and sills, and on aluminium check for failed thermal breaks or corrosion around fixings. If the foundation is failing, the smart money goes toward a new window assembly rather than pouring good glass into a bad frame.

Hardware headaches: hinges, handles, and gearboxes

If the window won't close neatly, glass clarity is the wrong place to look. Most operational problems come down to hinge wear, a slipped sash, or lock issues.

Friction hinges on top-hung or side-hung casements lose their bite with age. Wind pressure then pulls the sash outward on the latch side, causing drafts and poor compression. A fresh pair of hinges transforms the feel. Parts cost 15 to 40 GBP for standard stainless sets. Installed, expect 80 to 150 GBP for a straightforward job. Larger sashes, restricted access, or painted-in beads might push it upward.

Handles and espagnolette gearboxes fail in familiar ways. A handle that spins without engaging signals a broken spindle or stripped gearbox. The good news is that most of these are modular. A like-for-like swap often lands between 70 and 140 GBP fitted, depending on brand and whether you need a keyed or fire-escape spec. While the fitter is there, ask them to adjust the keeps and compression. A quarter turn on a cam can banish a persistent whistle at night.

Tilt-and-turn systems are a different animal. When they work, they're brilliant for ventilation and cleaning. When they slip out of sync, they can jam partly open or refuse to tilt. These repairs take more time, and parts cost more. Budget 120 to 250 GBP for diagnosis and repair if the mechanism is salvageable. Don't force a stuck tilt-and-turn. You can deform the steel reinforcement inside the sash.



Gaskets, beads, and the little seals that matter

Air and water tightness often comes down to perishables. Gaskets harden with UV exposure. Beads loosen if they were cut shy or if the frame shrinks slightly in cold weather. Swapping out a perimeter gasket can often restore that soft, satisfying close. Material costs are modest, usually a few pounds per metre. Labour dominates, especially on older windows with brittle plastic.

For inward-leaking windows during heavy rain, pay special attention to drainage paths. Most PVC and aluminium frames have weep holes that connect the internal chamber to the outside. If they clog with debris or paint, water pools and finds its way indoors. Clearing weeps and cleaning the drainage path can fix a "leak" without replacing anything. Ask a technician to water test before suggesting new glass. I've seen homeowners replaced two perfectly good units to fix a leak that a toothbrush could have solved.

Energy costs, comfort, and the true value of a repair

Window performance shows up in three ways: your bill, your comfort, and your view. The cost side is easiest to measure. If you swap an older, air-leaky setup for a tight frame with a modern low-e unit, you reduce both conductive losses and infiltration. In a typical semi with eight to ten windows, upgrading just the blown or leaky

units may save 5 to 10 percent on heating energy, assuming the rest of the house is decent. That might translate to 80 to 200 GBP per year in a gas-heated home, more in electrically heated ones.

Comfort is less about numbers and more about the feeling near glass on cold nights. Two things help: a lower U-value and good airtightness. A perfect centre-pane U-value does little if a tired gasket lets air whistle past the sash. In practice, the best value repair pairs a new IGU with hinge and compression adjustments or new gaskets. You get fewer cold draughts and a warmer mean radiant temperature in the room. Even a one-degree lift in the average surface temperature near the window can make a seat by the glass usable again.

As for the view, a misted unit steals daylight. It scatters light and adds a grey cast. Replacing it often surprises homeowners, because they didn't realise how much brightness they'd lost until they get it back. That has value you feel every morning.

Typical price bands by problem

Costs vary regionally, and upper-floor access or awkward sizes change the picture. Still, recurring ranges appear across projects.

- Misted or blown unit, supply and fit: 80 to 320 GBP per unit for standard sizes. Toughened, laminated, or coated glass adds 20 to 40 percent. Large picture windows can climb to 400 to 600 GBP.
- Pair of friction hinges replaced: 80 to 150 GBP per sash, more for oversized or rusted fixings.
- Handle and gearbox replacement: 70 to 140 GBP depending on hardware.
- Gasket replacement or resealing: 60 to 180 GBP per window, scope-dependent.
- Full sash realignment and compression tuning: often included with other works, otherwise 60 to 120 GBP as a service call.

Compare these with the cost of a full window replacement. A new, like-for-like PVC casement can start around 350 to 700 GBP installed for smaller sizes, with larger or timber frames heading into four figures. If the frame is sound, repair almost always wins on value for at least another 5 to 10 years of service.

When a repair is not the smart move

There are edge cases where repair dollars chase diminishing returns.

- End-of-life timber. If the lower rail is soft and you can push a screwdriver into the sill, you're dealing with structural decay. New glass in a rotten sash is lipstick on a pig.
- Extreme warping. Heat and time can twist PVC sashes so that compression is never even. You can pack, adjust, and replace hinges, but if three corners sit tight and the fourth floats, the fix won't hold.
- Historic or specialty glass. In listed properties or period homes, matching sightlines and glazing bars may require custom units that strain repair budgets. Sometimes a whole-frame specialist installation is the better long-term play.
- Repeated failures from movement. If you've replaced the unit twice and it keeps failing at the same edge, look for frame movement, poor packers, or structural settlement. The cure might be in the wall, not the window.

A good technician will be honest here. If you sense reluctance to quote for a new frame where it's warranted, get another opinion.

How to get a reliable quote without the run-around

A clear brief gets you accurate numbers faster. Measure the visible glass width and height to the nearest millimetre if possible, photograph the beads and the spacer bar edge for markings, and note whether the unit is toughened, which often shows a small stamp in a corner. Share whether the window is ground-floor or upper-floor, how access works, and any time constraints. Ask three direct questions:

- Are you replacing just the sealed unit or the whole sash and frame?
- What is the glass spec, including low-e coating, gas fill, spacer type, and safety rating?
- Will you adjust compression, check drainage, and confirm alignment as part of the work?

If a firm quotes suspiciously low without specifying the glass spec, they may be using a cheaper clear float unit with no low-e coating, which harms thermal performance compared with most modern domestic standards. It might be fine for an outbuilding. It's not fine for your living room.

DIY versus professional: the quiet costs of getting it wrong

Swapping a unit looks simple in online videos. In practice, bead removal without cracking, correct packing to avoid glass edge stress, and making sure drainage paths remain clear takes know-how. The glass edges are vulnerable, and a chipped corner can lead to a crack weeks later. If you own proper glass suckers, understand packing, and accept the risk, a confident DIYer can replace a unit safely at ground floor. Everything above that, or any tilt-and-turn mechanism, belongs to a pro.

Hardware work is less risky. Replacing a handle or even a gearbox is within reach for an intermediate DIYer with the correct part. Keep in mind that window manufacturers sometimes alter spindle lengths and backsets. Match parts carefully, and photograph everything before you start. If in doubt, buy the part from a local trade counter where you can compare like-for-like.

How long should a fix last?

A new sealed unit from a reliable fabricator should be good for 10 to 20 years, with big swings depending on solar exposure, manufacturing quality, and installation. South and west elevations endure more thermal cycling, which stresses seals. Warm-edge spacers and quality sealants extend life. Hinges and handles vary by use, but a good hinge set often lasts a decade or more. Regular cleaning and a light silicone-safe lubricant on friction stays once a year makes a difference.

If a replaced unit mists again within a year or two, suspect an installation fault such as overpacking or poor edge protection that stresses the seal. This is where warranties matter. Ask about both the unit manufacturer's warranty and the installer's workmanship guarantee.

Planning around comfort and cash flow

If you have several failures at once, you don't have to fix everything the same week. Prioritise like this: first, anything letting water in. Water damage is expensive and creeps into plaster and framing. Second, blown units in rooms you use daily, especially living areas where the view and light matter. Third, hardware that compromises security. Spread the rest over a few months if needed.

When budgets are tight, look for incremental upgrades. If your original units had aluminium spacers, upgrade to warm-edge when replacing. If you had standard float glass in a noisy street, consider an acoustic laminate on the inner pane for the front-facing rooms only. If condensation is a recurring interior problem in winter, improve

ventilation with trickle vents or timed extractor use alongside the repair. A repair makes the window work; a small tweak around the window makes the room better.

The environmental angle without the greenwash

Full window replacements carry a high embodied carbon footprint, particularly with PVC frames. If the frame is serviceable, replacing only failed units and worn hardware avoids unnecessary waste. Old glass units are not easily recyclable at scale due to coatings, spacers, and sealants, but the smaller the portion you replace, the lower the footprint. Think of repair as a way to recover performance with minimal material change. It's not the only lever for energy efficiency in a home, but it's one of the more cost-effective per pound spent.

Red flags and green lights when choosing a repair firm

You don't need an encyclopedic knowledge of glazing standards to spot who knows their craft. Short phone calls tell you a lot. When I hear a fitter ask for glass sight size, spacer thickness, and whether there's toughened stamps, I expect a well-fitted unit. When they talk about packers, drainage, and compression cams, I relax further. On the other hand, if the salesperson leaps straight to full replacements without inspection, or if the quote avoids any detail on glass spec, steer clear.

Timeliness matters too. For a straightforward Misted Double Glazing Repairs job, a reasonable time from survey to fit is one to two weeks for standard glass. Emergencies such as a cracked pane should get a board-up same day or next and glass within a week where suppliers allow. A firm that can't commit to a schedule for a simple repair may be juggling too much new-build work to give your job proper attention.

What to expect on the day of the repair

Good repairs are quiet and tidy. The fitter will lay down protection, remove beads gently, and handle the glass with suction cups. Expect a bit of clatter as beads pop out and back in. Windows may be out of the frame for a few minutes on unit swaps, so plan for pets and drafts. After fitting, they should check operation, adjust cams for compression, and confirm the sash closes smoothly. If you're particular about silicone lines, say so up front. A neat finish is part art, part patience.

Ask them to show you the spacer marking on the new unit. It typically includes the fabricator's name, date, glass makeup, and sometimes a batch number. Snap a photo for your records. It's useful if warranty issues arise.

Repair now, replace later: a sensible roadmap

Homeownership is a long game. Windows fail piece by piece, not all at once. The smart strategy is to stretch the life of a well-installed frame with targeted repairs, then budget for full replacements only when the frame loses integrity or your goals change. For example, if you plan a major external insulation project, you might wait to upgrade windows until that work, so the reveals and trims align. If you're renovating the kitchen, that's a sensible time to improve a stubborn tilt-and-turn while cabinets are out.

Until then, a replaced sealed unit here, a set of friction hinges there, and a fresh gasket on the drafty bedroom window will keep comfort high and costs manageable.

A clear answer to the common questions

Can you Fix Blown Double Glazing? Yes, by replacing the sealed unit. Attempts to dry and vent the existing unit are stopgaps that sacrifice performance. A proper replacement restores clarity, thermal efficiency, and often improves comfort over the original spec.

What do Misted Double Glazing Repairs involve? A survey to size and spec the glass, a factory-made replacement IGU, and a short installation visit to swap it in, check drainage and packers, and adjust the sash for an airtight close. Costs scale with size, spec, and access, typically from under one hundred pounds for small windows to a few hundred for large units.

Is repair good value? When frames are sound, absolutely. You avoid the cost, disruption, and embodied carbon of full replacements while recovering the performance you bought in the first place. Spend where the comfort returns are strongest, and let the rest wait its turn.

Windows are meant to be background. With the right repair at the right time, they become that again: a clear view, a warm seat by the glass, and a bill that doesn't make you wince when the weather turns.