

## Welcome to Kiravans:

### Your Trusted Guide to Campervan Windows

Whether you're a seasoned converter or just starting your van life journey, you've landed in the right place. At Kiravans, we're all about helping you make your campervan feel like a true home on wheels, with a touch of privacy and comfort, no matter where your adventures take you.

#### Who We Are:

We're Rob & Mike, a duo who've turned a passion for campervans into a mission: to provide high-quality, easy-to-install campervan windows that fit just right. From our days running a campervan rental fleet, we've learned a thing or two about what makes a van feel cosy & private, while remaining robust and functional. We're here to share that knowledge with you.

#### What We Offer:

- **Top-Quality Aftermarket Campervan Glass**
- **Top-Quality Sealant and U-Profile trim**
- **Straight-Talking Advice:** Installing windows in your van shouldn't be a puzzle. We offer clear, no-nonsense guidance to help you. Read on.

#### Our Promise:

We believe in straightforward, honest advice. No flowery language, no beating around the bush—just practical tips and real solutions. We focus on making each step of your DIY project a bit easier and a lot more enjoyable.

In this guide you will find:

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## Introduction

Kiravans has many years of experience in sourcing, using and selling the materials for building campervans. Before we started the website, we were a campervan rental company with a large fleet of home built vans.

We have worked with various different suppliers and their materials over the past 2 decades to find the aftermarket windows that we think do the job well at a reasonable cost. We thought we would share our knowledge with you, to help you with your decision making process.

Fitting windows to your van is not perhaps the first thing that many new van owners consider doing themselves. The purpose of this guide is to help you understand the terminology that surrounds windows, and the fitting process, to help you decide how you might want to address this part of your van conversion.

Kiravans windows are sold as **Aftermarket** glass and can be used either for fitting to panel vans, or as replacements for original OEM windows.

## Terminology: OEM vs Aftermarket Glass

**OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer)** glass is what the original manufacturer supplies with the vehicle. If you are buying OEM glass, it should be an almost perfect match for the other windows in your vehicle and manufactured exactly to the vehicle specifications. As with most branded vehicle parts, OEM glass is priced at a premium.

**Aftermarket** glass is a copy of the OEM glass made by a different manufacturer. In the campervan world, most of this glass comes from a handful of manufacturers in Turkey. The quality is broadly similar, and of course it meets the R43 standards necessary for approved use in a motor vehicle across Europe. The main advantage of aftermarket glass is that it is significantly less expensive to purchase.



So which should you buy? That is of course up to you, but here are the key points to consider. If you are replacing damaged OEM glass in your vehicle, aftermarket glass will not be a perfect match to the other windows. The glass will fit, but any opening windows will be different in style and the glass colour or tint is also unlikely to match exactly. You need to consider how important that is to you.

If you are converting a panel van and cutting out holes for the windows, you probably just want all the windows to match. In this case you would buy either all OEM, or all Aftermarket, from the same supplier, depending on your budget.

## Kiravans Windows

We are really proud of our glass range. Our manufacturer consistently supplies us with an excellent quality of aftermarket window that will look great on your van. We understand that many customers are a little nervous about purchasing glass by mail order and so we have taken strong measures to provide the necessary reassurance.

### Packaging and Shipping

We have perfected our shipping process with a skilled and experienced warehousing team who understand the importance of getting the packaging just right. Each window is carefully packed to order, and our boxes have been meticulously designed to properly protect the fragile contents to stand up to the rigours of courier transit.

### Shipping Guarantee

Kiravans very much believe that it is our responsibility to get the product to you in one piece. We cannot directly control what happens once the courier takes charge of the window, and sadly, very occasionally, some glass does not survive transit. We are so confident in our processes that we will ship a replacement to you if there is the slightest problem. We send our window products to customers all across Europe and experience very few issues.

### Window Features:

- **'E' stamped Tempered Glass**  
Meets strict European safety standard **UN/ECE R43**. In the event of an accident, these campervan windows will shatter into thousands of small pieces, so there are no sharp edges.
- **Tinted Privacy Windows**  
Our campervan windows are stained with an **80%** dark grey tint. This tint is within the glass itself and is not a film like some manufacturers.
- **Fritted Glass**  
The black ceramic 'frit' paint pattern on the inside of the glass prevents visibility of any cut metal from the outside of your van.
- **New & Improved Latches**  
The latches on all our opening windows have been redesigned for smoother opening.
- **Extra Tough Packaging**  
Double cardboard 300 KT box with inserts to suspend glass away from edges.
- **Glass Insurance**  
We insure all our glass, so if anything happens during transit, we will send a replacement out straight away - no quibbles.

### Top Tip

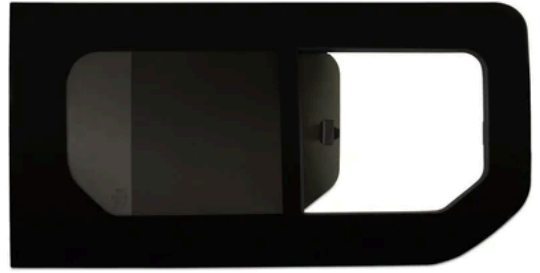
As soon as your glass arrives, check it over carefully for chips or scratches and confirm that it was the correct glass that you ordered. Mistakes and damage don't often happen, but it is always much easier to solve the problem when you are not already half way through fitting them to the van.



## Window Range

We stock windows for the following vehicles:

- **Ford Transit Custom 2013+**
- **Renault Trafic 2014+ (3rd Gen X82)**
- **Vauxhall Vivaro 2014-2018 (Mk2/X82)**
- **VW T5/T6/T6.1**



## Window Terminology

### Left vs Right

Just as your left and right shoes will only fit the correct foot, van windows are also different on each side. We view the vehicle from the back.

### Left Hand Drive (LHD) vs Right Hand Drive (RHD)

In most of the world, the driver sits on the left side of the vehicle (LHD). The main exceptions to this rule are in the UK and Ireland, where the driver sits on the right hand side (RHD).

### Opening vs Fixed

Most of our windows are “Fixed”, meaning that they have no opening. Our left and right centre windows are available either as opening windows (as pictured above) or fixed windows (no opening).

### Sliding Door vs Non-sliding Door

The rear passenger compartment in your van will always have one sliding door behind the front passenger seat. In LHD vehicles this is on the right, and for RHD vehicles it's on the left. For most vehicles, there is no sliding door on the driver's side unless your vehicle has twin sliding doors.

It is important to carefully select the correct window for the type of van you have as the windows are usually different on sliding doors vs non sliding doors.

### Long Wheelbase (LWB) vs Short Wheelbase (SWB)

Some vehicles are available as long or short wheelbase models. The difference in vehicle length only makes a difference to the rear quarter windows. You should select the correct window accordingly.

### Tailgate vs Barn Doors

The rear door of your van will either be a tailgate or barn doors type. Please note that we do not supply tailgate windows due to shipping restrictions at our warehouse.

## Window Fitting Accessories

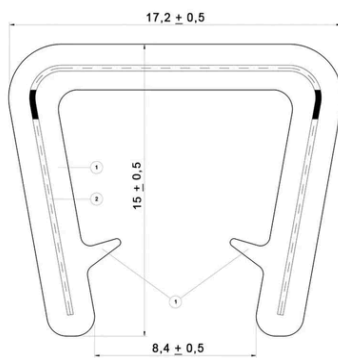
We include fitting kits with each window that we sell. These kits include sufficient quantities of the following items to allow you to complete the job:

- U-Profile Window Trim
- UltraCure Primed Sealant

### U-Profile Edge Trim

Once you have cut out the window holes in your van, you are left with some sharp edges. You should file them down but this edge trim will help provide a more professional finish to your window. We supply extra wide U-Profile window trim for 8-14mm edges. This is the perfect size to easily go over both metal skins on a T5, so it avoids the need to remove the pinch weld.

Extra wide U-profile  
Product dimensions



### Sealant: Primed (UltraCure)

The fitting kit will contain more than enough sealant and primer to do the job. This is a rapid cure, single component, high modulus, high viscosity, moisture curing Polyurethane adhesive/sealant primarily used for automotive direct glazing. Ultra Cure must be used in conjunction with Winbond Combo Glass/Paint Primer as this is what activates the chemical reaction to bond the materials together.

These adhesives should be warmed up slightly before use to ease application. Just store the tube indoors at room temperature for a day or two before use and that should be sufficient.

The UltraCure option has a driveaway time of 2-4 hours, depending on the ambient air temperature and humidity.

## Fitting Windows



The process of fitting windows to your van can sound a little daunting. You have just spent a substantial amount of money on a vehicle, and now you are going to cut holes in it and glue windows to the side, hoping that the rain doesn't come in. So do you feel up to the job, or should you let someone else do it?

In a previous life, Kiravans were building vans to rent out. Co-founder Mike McCandless got lots of practice at cutting holes in vans and fitting non-leaky windows. He has shared his experience in the video below which you can use to help you decide if you have the skills.

**Additional Resources:** [Video: How to Professionally Fit Windows \(Eng+Subtitles\)](#)

## Videos and Language Translations

This guide is accompanied by various instruction and discussion videos. While they are all in English, it is possible to generate subtitles in your preferred language to make them simpler to follow.

- **To switch on subtitles:**  
Click on the subtitles icon at the bottom right panel of the video 
- **To change the language:**  
Click on the setting icon at the bottom right panel of the video   
Select **Subtitles/CC > Auto-Translate > [Choose Your Language]**

## Mikes Top Tips

We are not going to lie; Mikes' experience makes it look easier than it is, but he insists it is also not all that difficult if you have the correct equipment, and take care in certain places. Most of you will be doing this for the first and only time, and therefore want to get it right the first time. So what are Mike's top tips for installing your own van windows?

### 1. Use the Right Equipment

- **Cutting Tools**  
Watch Mike's [video](#) to see the variety of tools that he demonstrates for cutting the holes in the van. There are a range of options with varying results, but all of them work.

	Corners	Central Strut	Lines
<b>Simplest</b> The tools that you are most likely to already have in your workshop, or can borrow.	<b>Drill</b> Drill a hole in each corner around 10mm from the edge.	<b>Mini Grinder</b> The jigsaw will struggle to cut the double thickness here. Use a grinder.  Thin cutting disk + thicker grinding disk	<b>Jigsaw</b> Just cut between the four corner holes. The corners can be a little fiddly.
<b>Recommended</b> Tools that you might find in a better stocked workshop.  If you have access to them, you might find it a little easier, but they are not essential.	<b>Hole Saw</b> The wider cutting hole will leave you with nicely rounded corners leaving you with only the straight lines to worry about.		<b>Air Body Saw</b> <b>Reciprocating / Sabre Saw</b> <b>Air nibbler</b> <b>Power Shears</b>

- **High Thrust Ratio Sealant Gun**

The application of sealant is the thing you most want to get right as this not only sticks your glass to the van, but it keeps the weather out. Regular sealant guns that you might use to seal the cracks around the bath are probably not going to give you the control over the sealant you use to bond your van windows. This sealant is much thicker and needs a stronger force to push it through the canister.

For best results, use a high thrust ratio (12:1) sealant gun.



- **Glass Suction Pads**

It is tempting to take a shortcut on this item when you have a one off job to do, but these suction pads are invaluable. You will need them to help you remove the sharp cut out metal panels that you cut from your van, and again to lift and carefully position the heavy glass in position on your van.

It is always tempting just to buy one of these. We strongly recommend that you buy two. It will make your life much easier.



## **2. Protect your van**

The work you are going to carry out will create sparks and sharp metal shards. Use protective sheeting and masking tape to prevent sparks from burning holes in your upholstery, or the metal shards from scratching the paintwork.

## **3. Dry Fit the Window**

With the holes cut and the trim in place, try putting the window against the van bodywork before adding the adhesive. This is to see how it fits. If it rocks a little, you will want to use a rubber mallet to even out the high spots in the vans frame. You don't want to discover this after you already have the sealant in place.

## **4. Apply the Sealant Carefully**

As demonstrated in the video, ideally you need to apply the sealant in a single line around the frame of the window. Start at the top right corner, running clockwise, and when you come back round be sure to overlap the sealant to help draw rainwater away from the join.

If the loaded sealant cartridge is not going to complete the circle, make sure you have the next cartridge ready to quickly make the switch when it runs out.

Some people like to install a window over the rear quarter metal panel (e.g. without removing the metal panel). If you are doing this, it is important to leave a small sealant gap at the bottom of the window. Air trapped air between the window and the metalwork will heat and expand in sunlight. If it doesn't have an outlet pressure will build and may cause problems.



## 5. Fit Window Pairs Together

If you are installing two windows side by side, work on both at the same time. This will make it easier to get a uniform gap between the two panes, and help you line them up properly before either of them are secured in place.

## 6. Don't Slam Your Doors!

Once the windows are in place, be careful to be gentle when closing doors until the adhesive has set. The air pressure generated from slamming a door could push the window out to let the air escape and this would create a break in the seal.

## Window Accessories

### Kiravans Window Vent for VW T5/T6/T6.1

This practical device allows you to leave your windows open at night to let the air in, but keep the mosquitos and rain out.

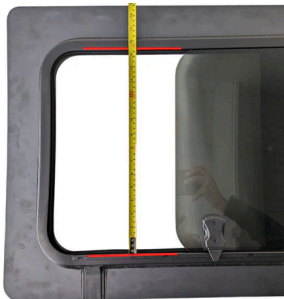
#### Compatibility

Which windows does the **Kiravans** window vent fit?

- All **Kiravans** opening windows for the T5/T6/T6.1
- Non-Kiravans windows - **measure up**
- Does **not** fit OEM VW Windows



#### Measuring up



If you have windows from a different supplier just open the window and measure the internal height from bottom to top sliding rail.

The vent will only fit if the distance between the red lines (see diagram) is **395mm +/- 3mm**.

**Additional Resources:** [Buy Window Vent](#)

## Manufacturing Process

If you are interested in finding out more about how glass is laminated and shaped to fit your vehicle the following video describes the process. The video is for a windscreen rather than side windows, and not from the factory we use, but the process is pretty much identical.

**Additional Resources:** [Video: Glass Manufacturing Process](#)

## Summary and Conclusions

Only you can know your own DIY abilities, but hopefully this guide, and Mike's [video](#), will help you work out whether you can do this yourself, or if you want to bring the professionals in. We think that with the right equipment and a bit of attention to detail, most people can give this a go.

Whether tackling the project yourself, or paying a professional, you can use Kiravans products secure in the knowledge that we have used our considerable experience to pick out good quality materials for you.

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