

What to look for in a quality tubular daylighting system

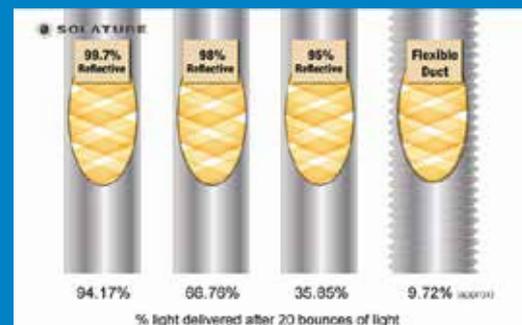
Solatube patented the first tubular daylighting system more than 25 years ago. Now, with over 6 million systems sold worldwide, Solatube is still leading the industry it started. As with all great original ideas, Solatube Daylighting Systems have their imitators – so what makes Solatube stand out above the rest and what should you expect from a quality tubular daylighting system? See our checklist & tips below.

Peace of mind	Safety, quality & fitness for purpose	Can the supplier offer products that hold an independent statement of safety, quality and fitness-for-purpose, such as a BBA Certificate?	✓
	Supplier	Is the supplier a well-established company with a proven track record – in the commercial market too?	✓
	Warranty	Does the product have a 10 year manufacturer's warranty?	✓
	Energy Star rated	Is the product Energy Star rated or similar to confirm its 'green' credentials?	✓
Efficiency	Performance	In addition to excellent daylight delivery, does the product meet UK thermal and acoustic requirements?	✓
	Tube material	To deliver maximum daylight, the reflective tube material should be at least 99% reflective and never flexible ducting.	✓
	Double glazed	Is the system double-glazed <i>at ceiling level</i> (and not at roof level) to maintain your room's thermal barrier?	✓
Control	Reduce glare	If the light is still too bright, can you easily adjust lighting levels (glare) once the system has been installed?	✓
	Condensation	Is the product equipped to deal with the potential of condensation?	✓
Smart design	Angles	Are two adjustable angles supplied as standard for ease of installation?	✓
	Ceiling fittings	Is there a wide a range of ceiling fittings with a choice of materials and attractive designs?	✓
	Options & accessories	Does the product offer a wide range of ceiling fittings and accessories so I can build the system of my choice?	✓

Solatube Daylighting Systems ... versatile but never flexible

One great advantage of Solatube Daylighting Systems is that they can deliver daylight to areas that traditional windows & roof lights simply can't reach. But we never use flexible duct tubing to deliver daylight – and here's why.

With Solatube's unique, rigid Spectralight Infinity 99.7% reflective tube material, only 0.3% of the light is absorbed at each bounce down the tube. By contrast, a flexible tube, with its concertinaed foil lining, loses a significant amount of light at each bounce, resulting in very poor light output.



You would need

10 flexible sun tunnels
to meet the light output of
just 1 Solatube Daylighting System

This was the conclusion of a Building Research Establishment test that compared the Solatube rigid tube system – size for size – against the flexible tube system of the most widely-known roof light manufacturer.



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