

Let the sunshine in!

Skylights and solar tubes can increase the brightness and health of your home



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DESIGNED FOR LIVING

We all want maximum light in our homes. Not only does this enhance the aesthetics of your space, it makes us feel better to see the great morning sunshine.

However, we all have those areas of our home, the space over our staircase, or a bathroom perhaps, where light struggles to reach.

If this is your situation, then why not consider adding a skylight to these darker areas of your home, and let the sunshine in.

Skylights, and solar tubes if you lack the space, are a wonderful way to increase the brightness and even the

health of your home.

It's a way to introduce more natural light into a room, but it also helps your home to ventilate and "breathe" better.

Windows are designed to circulate air throughout a room, however hot air rises, and so will any toxins or pollutants.

There are many skylights on the market now that are designed to pop open and allow your home to breathe better.

As a designer, one company that I turn to for all the skylights and solar tubes we install is Velux Canada. Not only do they manufacture quality products, they are at

the forefront of the industry with great designs and technology.

Skylights have a stigma that they often leak. In 2010, Velux Canada launched the 'No Leak Skylight' that offers a "no leak, no worries" promise.

But in order to maximize the benefits and design feature of a skylight in your home, you need to remember a few key points when deciding the best place to install one (or two).

1. Plan well and be aware of the finished outcome of installing a skylight or solar tube. A skylight is not a window, however, many people often think the two are interchangeable. A window is designed to catch the low-angled rays of the sun in the winter and limits the glare of the high-angled sun in the summer; however a skylight tends to do the opposite so consider this factor when deciding on location.

2. Consider how the sun moves throughout the day. A

skylight positioned on a sloping roof facing north tends to diffuse light for you all day, where one situated on a sloping roof facing south can have a tendency to overheat rooms. Also consider that any furniture, flooring or fabrics may become sun bleached from constant direct sunlight. To regulate this you may want to consider a skylight that has a built-in blind.

3. Select appropriately for your space to maximize the aesthetics. Just as a large skylight in a very small bathroom may look out of place, so will a single small skylight on a vast sloping ceiling in a family room or kitchen. Skylights come in varying sizes, therefore if you have a large ceiling you may want to consider adding more than one skylight for visual appeal. However, for tighter more confined spaces the tubular option may be the way to go.

In the end, whatever you decide we can all agree that skylights are a wonder-



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ful design feature for many spaces. They add an architectural element to your room and create a more airy feeling as the ceiling no longer appears as an uninteresting solid block.

So create a warm and cheery atmosphere for yourself and consider the addi-

tion of a skylight for your next home renovation!

— **Linda Mazur is principal of Linda Mazur Design Group and is known for providing design projects that reflect a timeless style and optimal functionality. Visit her at www.lindamazurdesign.com.**



Skylights are a wonderful design feature that add an architectural element to a room and create a more airy feeling.



For tighter, more confined spaces, the solar tubular option may be the way to go.