

## A REALISTIC COMPARISON BETWEEN GLASS AND POLYCARBONATE

### GLASS

#### ADVANTAGES

- Clear view of the sky, trees and stars
- Much easier to keep clean
- Does not scratch easily or discolour
- Enduring quality appearance even over many years glass does not deteriorate.
- Numerous styles of glass available
- Pilkington 'K' coating can be offered
- Numerous styles of glass available - patterns and solar reflective - decorative patterns and solar reflective options
- No light deterioration in winter months or after sunset
- # Glass can be fitted into more substantial architectural aluminium conservatories to replace polycarbonate at a later date - may not be possible in a plastic conservatory

#### DISADVANTAGES

- Conservatory must be much more substantial to withstand weight
- Possibility of sealed units breaking down
- Very heavy to lift
- Expensive if replacing
- Could shatter if struck by a sharp object  
*Will break into many small pieces NOT long shards*

### POLYCARBONATE

#### ADVANTAGES

- Much lighter than glass so easier to fit
- Higher insulation value than sealed units . . . is claimed BUT ends are NOT sealed!
- Clear, bronze or opal available plus various 'combinations' of tinting.
- Less strength required within conservatory framework as polycarbonate is lightweight generally cheaper than glass plus cost saving on less strong supporting structure.

#### DISADVANTAGES

- Mould and algae can form inside - notorious for going green not just outside but within the chambers. Easily cut or prised off by housebreakers. Can be torn out in high winds
- Ultra-violet degradation can occur - Possible penetration by hail stones
- Only needs lightweight lower structure and roofs to support
- Original manufacturers guarantee probably reduces as each year passes. Limited life span.
- There are many different qualities - not easy to know which you will be getting - an independent assessment is advised.
- VERY noisy during the rain. Extremely poor sound insulation
- Expands and contracts within roof often causing loud bangs.
- Still need blinds. Extreme heat is created beneath plastic roofs.
- Darkens room in winter months and after sunset
- Very dangerous to stand on.