

Wood doors are divided into two categories in terms of fabrication methods: solid wooden doors and flash doors. There are several methods of building flash doors; some, for example, use a paper honeycomb structure as a core material.

### Functional Types of Windows

In terms of functional types, the most popular are sliding windows. Though bay and bow windows are becoming popular, their use is still limited — about 7 per cent of prefabricated and 2 x 4 houses built since 1986.

For imported windows, guillotine (double hung) type windows are popular in terms of numbers sold. Another popular window type is the fixed window.

Although all kinds of "exotic" window systems are being imported and developed by small companies, for most Japanese there are only two window systems: sliding and swing.

### Materials

The most popular window system in Japan is the aluminum sliding window. It was used in nearly all detached residential houses. However, steel, wood and plastics are increasingly being used alone or in combination with other materials.

Wood and especially plastics are often used with aluminum to reduce thermal conductivity in cold areas. In Hokkaido, the northern island of Japan, aluminum/vinyl combination windows are used because heat conductance is low.

Modern-style wooden windows are new in Japan, though before aluminum sashes became popular, wooden windows were the only choice. Compared with today's quality and performance, these wooden windows were far below the standard.

There is considerable steel window production in Japan but they are used almost exclusively for commercial buildings.

There are no vinyl clad wood frame windows manufactured in Japan, but such windows are imported and sell well. The leading importer is Andersen of the United States.

However, some companies have recently begun to develop wood frame windows covered with aluminum on the exterior face.

### Sizing

Although there are several regional variations, door sizes are fairly standardized. Door and window sizes are based on the old Japanese measurement system: sun (pronounced "soon") = 3.03 cm; shaku = 10 sun; ken = 6 shaku. Standard height is approximately 6 shaku and standard width is 2 to 3 shaku.