

Taking the Heat Off a Vancouver Office Building With 3M™ Scotchtint™ Window Film.



PROBLEM

A 13-story office complex in Vancouver, British Columbia, features floor-to-ceiling windows on its entire southern face. And while those windows are an aesthetic asset, until recently, they were a liability to the comfort of the occupants in the building once the sun rose over the horizon.

According to the building's property manager, the office complex was originally constructed with windows that offered only minimal solar protection. So once the sun's rays reached the windows in the morning, the temperature would climb quickly.

In addition, there are 15 separate zones on a floor, each governed by a thermostat that automatically goes up or down, depending on the conditions. In response to the heat of the sun, the thermostats closest to the windows would activate the air conditioning—not enough to cool the overheated areas, but more than enough to make room temperatures in areas farther away from the windows uncomfortably cold.

SOLUTION

Sundog™ Energy Management Inc. in Vancouver, an authorized 3M Scotchtint window film dealer, was called in to resolve the problem. The company's owner, William Ross, says, "You could stand by the windows and just feel the heat. I knew we could greatly improve the situation if we could reduce the effects of the sun on the envelope of the building."

Ross recommended LE35AMARL Scotchtint Plus All Season window film to reduce the solar warming in the building and enhance the comfort level of tenants. This low-emissivity film reduces solar heat transmission by as much as 70%, depending on the type of window. The film will also reduce heat loss in the cooler months by as much as 30%.

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CASE HISTORY

RESULTS

"I'm not in business just to sell products," says Ross. "I'm in business to offer clients the right solution for their specific problems." Since the installation in 1995, the tenants, especially those who are close to windows, report greater comfort. In addition, the building's property manager says she estimates that heating and cooling costs for the office complex have dropped by 22% since the installation of 3M Scotchtint window film. And while cosmetics were not the primary concern, she agrees that the film has enhanced the appearance of the building too. A year after Sundog installed 3M Scotchtint window film on the windows of the building's 13 floors, Sundog was invited back to install 3M Scotchtint window film on the foyer windows.

THE 3M DIFFERENCE

According to Ross, the installation was a relatively painless procedure. But what's more important is that, since the installation, the building manager has heard very few complaints about the offices being too warm.

PROJECT SUMMARY

3M Dealer: William Ross,
Sundog Energy
Management, Inc.

Installation Date: 1995

Type of Film: LE35AMARL Scotchtint
Plus All Season
window film

Remedies Tried Prior to Window Film

Application: Prior to installation,
draperies were used to try to control
temperatures in the building.

Project Notes: Since the installation,
heating and cooling costs have dropped
by an estimated 22% and employees
have reported greater comfort.

3M Innovation

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