

Daylight

Architecture

How daylight is measured, the old rule of thumb, and the standard that replaced it.

Daylight factor is the indoor illuminance as a percentage of the unobstructed outdoor illuminance.

$$\text{DF} = (\text{indoor lux} / \text{outdoor lux}) \times 100$$

300 lux in, 15000 out

supplementary only

2 per cent

750 in, 15000 out

reads as well daylit

5 per cent

Window head 2.4 m

roughly 2x head height

about 4.8 m of reach

THE COMMON MISTAKE

× **Deep plan lit only from one side**

✓ **Light from two sides, or from above**

Useful daylight reaches about two and a half times the window head height. A deeper room has a dark half that will be lit electrically all day.

Educational reference. EN 17037 now sets target illuminance over a share of hours rather than a single daylight factor.