

Bright Ideas: Are Skylights an Option in Building Your Modular Home?



Wondering if skylights can be included in your modular home design? Discover the three types of skylights, how they work in modular housing, and what to consider.

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Letting Light In: A Common Design Question

When you're planning your dream modular home, a lot of design decisions come up — and one of the more common ones we hear is: Can we include skylights? The short and honest answer is yes. Skylights are absolutely an option in modular housing, and there are a few different ways you can go about it depending on the look, feel, and function you're after.

This blog walks through your options in plain terms, so you can feel confident knowing what's possible and what to think about as you design your home.

Why Skylights Work So Well in Aussie Homes

There's a reason so many families love skylights — they bring in natural light, make spaces feel open and fresh, and even help cut down on lighting costs during the day. In parts of Australia where homes are built to keep heat in winter and push it out in summer, skylights can play a smart role in passive design too.

More than anything, they give you a sense of connection to the outdoors. Whether it's blue sky overhead, soft moonlight, or even a bit of cloud watching on a lazy afternoon, skylights bring a slice of the outside in. That natural light lifts everything — from your mood to how your living spaces feel day to day.

Modular homes, designed with precision and purpose, are actually a great match for skylights. They allow for clever planning from the start, so everything fits and flows the way it should.

It's no surprise then that many Australian family couples, who are thoughtful about both style and value in their home investment, are choosing to include skylights as part of their overall design. It's a small touch with a big payoff in liveability.

Three Ways to Do Skylights in Modular Homes

There are three common types of skylights used in Australian homes — each with its own pros, features, and things to think about. Here's a simple rundown:

1. The Classic Skylight (Old School, Still Great)

- **What it is:** A traditional setup with a hole cut in the roof, a duct or shaft that runs down into the ceiling space, and a diffuser at ceiling level to spread the light.
- **Why people like it:** It's tried and tested. It brings in real daylight and works well in spots like hallways, bathrooms, or anywhere you want a bit more light without the full window.
- **What to consider:** The straighter the shaft, the more light you'll get. Bends in the duct can reduce brightness. And you'll want it properly insulated to avoid condensation or heat loss.

2. Solar-Powered LED Skylights (Light Without the Hole)

- **What it is:** A newer option where a [solar panel sits on the roof](#), collects sunlight, and powers an LED light inside your ceiling. No duct or hole needed — just wiring.
- **Why people like it:** It looks like a skylight, lights up like one, but works even when the sun's not shining bright. Because it doesn't involve cutting a hole in the roof, it's also good for insulation and weatherproofing.
- **What to consider:** You'll need good placement for the solar panel to catch the sun, and some simple wiring to connect the system. Over time, you might need to replace the LED, but there's no direct exposure to the elements.

3. Roof Windows (Like a Skylight, But Openable)

- **What it is:** Think of brands like [VELUX](#) — roof windows that can be fixed or operable, letting in light and fresh air. These are actual windows set into the roof.
- **Why people like it:** They offer proper daylight, can be opened for airflow, and give a clear view of the sky. Many models come with extras like blinds, remote operation, or rain sensors.

- **What to consider:** These need to be built into the roof structure properly, with the right flashing and sealing to keep water out and heat in. They're a bit more involved, but the result is worth it for many families.

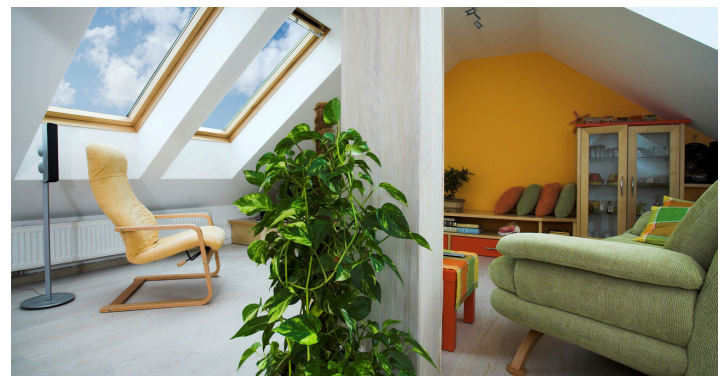
How It Works in Modular Housing

One of the biggest misconceptions is that skylights are hard to do in modular homes. But in reality, if you're working with a team that knows modular housing well, it's quite straightforward.

The key is to plan for it early. Since modular homes are built with precision in mind, the design can include any skylight setup — whether it's ducted, wired, or window-style. The roof can be pre-framed to fit the skylight, with insulation and waterproofing factored in from the start. This means no cutting corners or compromising quality later on.

Choosing the right [roof pitch](#) from the outset also plays a part in how well skylights perform, both in terms of light angle and weather protection. A carefully considered roofline supports both form and function — especially when incorporating overhead features like skylights.

Modular construction also means fewer surprises. Everything is engineered ahead of time, and the final fit is just as strong and weatherproof as a traditional home. If you want a few skylights throughout your home, or just one feature piece in the main living area, it's all doable with the right design team.



A Few Things to Keep in Mind

Here's a simple checklist to help guide your skylight choices:

What to Think About	Why It Matters
Roof direction & pitch	Impacts how much sun your skylight catches during the day
Where the light's going	Some spaces (like bathrooms or hallways) may suit smaller skylights or light tubes
Insulation & glazing	To avoid heat loss in winter or overheating in summer
Can it open?	Venting skylights help let out hot air and keep your home fresh
Cleaning & access	Especially for roof windows, think about how you'll clean them over time
Wiring needs	If you're going the LED route, plan for the power run early

The Bottom Line

Skylights absolutely can be part of your modular home design — and not just as an afterthought. Whether it's a traditional skylight, a solar-powered LED diffuser, or a full-blown roof window that opens up to the stars, there's a style to suit your home and your lifestyle.

They're practical, they're beautiful, and they make a real difference to how your home feels. And in modular housing, they can be included right from the start — without a fuss.

Many couples designing their modular homes today are making thoughtful choices like this — prioritising natural light, energy-smart features, and a bit of wow factor — all without blowing the budget.

Good design is all about the details — and skylights are one of those details that can quietly transform a space from ordinary to something truly special.

Bright living starts with good design.

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