



Sunrooms

The Essential Guide to







A Sunroom History

Sunrooms, or more traditionally, conservatories, began as places for potting and preserving tender plants. Originally, they were outbuildings to country houses and stately homes and very much the domain of the gardener.

Over time, sunrooms were refined and became increasingly popular during the eighteenth century as glass became less of a luxury and as our intrepid ancestors returned from their voyages with exotic botanical specimens to cultivate at home. Often, citrus trees were sheltered and nurtured here and the sunroom became known as the “orangery.” These early buildings were usually made with an iron framework and small glass panes.

In the early nineteenth century, building techniques greatly improved while mass production made glass less expensive and more widely available. This made even grander conservatories possible, with more delicate, elaborate structures, and also meant humbler homes could aspire to a conservatory.

As so often happens, a purely functional space began to take on decorative aspects. People became aware that the sunroom could also be a garden room, a delightful spot in which to enjoy outdoor views and an al fresco atmosphere while remaining sheltered from the outside elements.



TAKE A MOMENT

Imagine being greeted each morning by the drama of a new day, soothed by the serenity of twilight and romanced by the glow of nightfall. For almost three decades, discriminating homeowners have looked to Four Seasons Sunrooms for their sunroom, conservatory, solarium and patio room needs. Your home is your castle and you don't take that investment lightly. At Four Seasons Sunrooms, neither do we.

How Will You Use Your New Sunroom?

Almost all of our clients at one time or another tell us, “This was the best thing I ever did! I should have done it years ago. I don’t know why I waited so long. It’s our favorite room in the house.” We understand why people wait so long. It’s a big project and it’s difficult to even know where to start. We’re here to help.

While you might be tempted to start your sunroom planning with thoughts about budget and where it will be located, we invite you to step back and think about how you will use the room and what it will look like inside first. The answers to these questions will help you to determine the size, shape and placement of the room on your property.

The first part of any major remodeling project has to be a kind of “Needs Assessment”. “What do I want to do in this room?” It seems like a simple question, but almost everyone will have a different answer. Some people might want to add more space to their kitchen, while others are looking for a home office. Some may want a new game room, while others are looking for a family room. There are hundreds of uses for your sunroom and every one is unique to the person or family that will be using it. This is your room and you want it designed and manufactured just for you and your needs and desires.

To get started you need to think about what you want to do in your room and how you want to use it. Be sure to think about who will be using it. Is it just for you? What about the rest of your family? Your sunroom is going to be with you for a long time. Think about how you would use it today, as well as how you may want to use it five, ten, even twenty years from now.

Think about this for a while and discuss it with your family. Then write down your conclusions and you’ll be ready to move on to the next phase.

So, you’re thinking of building a sunroom. That’s great! Adding a sunroom can be the best thing you ever did for your home, your family and your lifestyle.



Interior of Straight Eave with Solid Roof



Interior of Georgian Conservatory Indoor Garden

GROWING PLANTS IN YOUR SUNROOM

While sunrooms may have originally started their existence as a place to grow plants, they’ve come a long way since those early days. That’s not to say that you can’t still grow plants in your sunroom or conservatory. In fact, the same conditions that help people thrive in a sunroom are the ones plants love. We have sold many sunrooms and conservatories to people who use them exclusively to grow prize-winning orchids, a notoriously finicky flowering plant. What makes a Four Seasons Sunroom so ideal for plant growing is that our exclusive CONSERVAGLASS SELECT™ helps screen out the harshest and most dangerous infrared radiation. This harsh sunlight can often scorch tender seedlings and delicate flowers.

Almost any plant will thrive while being protected from the harshest effects of the sun’s rays. Ask the Four Seasons Sunrooms location nearest you for a copy of our Glass Performance Comparison Chart for our exclusive CONSERVAGLASS SELECT™. This chart can assist even the most scientific-minded botanist to calculate the best plants for your sunroom in your climate.



THE OUTDOORS IS NOW INDOORS!

Thank you for the wonderful job done on our sunroom. We really enjoy the room, and our friends can't believe how nice it adds to the look of our home. The work went along smoothly in a clean and timely manner."

— Tom and Kathy



SUNROOMS, CONSERVATORIES, PATIO ROOMS AND MORE

Designed for year-round living, our solarium, patio enclosure and sun room designs can be customized to fit your lifestyle and will enhance the beauty and value of your home. Traditional and contemporary sunrooms and conservatories will add light, elegance and a spacious look that will blend perfectly with any style home. Each patio room, conservatory and sunroom design comes in a variety of sizes, roof and frame finishes, door choices and many other features.



What Will It Look Like Inside?

Now that you know how you will use your room today, and in the future, you can begin to think about what you will put into your new sunroom. Close your eyes and try to visualize your new room. Will you put kitchen cabinets in it? A dining room set, computer desk, or couches and chairs? A television? Exercise equipment?

With these answers, you'll have an idea of how big your new sunroom must be to accommodate the furnishings you want to include and the way you plan to use it. Measure the furniture you plan to put in the room and try to locate it in the space you have planned. Some people find it helpful to draw outlines of the furnishings on graph paper and then cut them out and play around with different arrangements. This can be a fun activity for the whole family and opens up a range of possibilities that you might not have thought of before. Try different arrangements until you find one that works best. Don't forget to think about where you might like a door to your yard at this time so you can avoid blocking that exit.

You can also begin to think about your flooring choices. Would you like carpet, ceramic tile, or hardwood flooring? The choice is yours!

Be sure to think about your electrical, heating and air conditioning needs now, also. Do you want to use this room 365 days a year? We expect you will, and since our rooms are built to accommodate year-round use, you'll likely want some kind of heating and air conditioning in the room depending upon where you live. How will you accomplish this? Will you extend your existing systems or add a new one just for your addition? While we recommend that you consult with a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) specialist to properly address your heating and cooling needs, we strongly suggest that your addition be on its own "zone," independent of the rest of the house.

Where Will You Locate Your New Sunroom?

Now that you have an idea of how you'll use your room and the size you'll need to accommodate your activities and the associated furniture, take a walk outside your home to look at where you would like to locate your new sunroom. Think about where you would like your new sunroom and how it will "connect" to the rest of the house.

If you want to locate it in the back yard, do you already have a back door that would serve as an access point to the new room? If not, it is usually not a problem to add one where you want it. Do you even want a door into the new room? Maybe you want to open up a whole wall and make your new sunroom a part of an existing room in your home. Before you decide, be sure the sunroom you choose is suitable for this.



WHY FOUR SEASONS?

Four Seasons is the premier manufacturer and builder of year-round glass sunrooms, solariums and conservatories in North America. We set the standard for our industry. When it's time to add light or space to your home, Four Seasons are the number one choice.

WE HAVE WHAT YOU WANT

Four Seasons has exactly what you're looking for. We offer four unique architectural styles, and endless combinations of sizes, finishes and options. If our inventory doesn't include what you need, we can custom design a glass room for you.

About Four Seasons

It is no coincidence that the modern sunroom began its revival in North America during the energy crisis of the 1970s. At this time, people saw sunrooms as a way to use passive solar energy to help heat their homes. In fact, this is when Four Seasons Sunrooms was born. Four Seasons Sunrooms, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, helped create the Brookhaven House to study the effects of passive solar energy heating.

From its extensive research in the solar thermal properties of its products, Four Seasons helped advance the technology of glass from heating homes with solar energy to blocking solar energy to create glass rooms that are heated and cooled just like an ordinary room addition. Four Seasons continually advances the technology of insulating glass and regularly updates its glass with the latest glazing technology available to ensure you have the best and most thermally efficient sunroom available. The result of that research is the company's exclusive and patented CONSERVAGLASS SELECT™

QUALITY AND TRUST

For over 30 years we have put tremendous effort into the quality and reputation of our brand. Our installers are factory trained by experienced professionals so you can rest assured that your new project will be completed to the highest industry standards.



OUR HEADQUARTERS

Now located in Holbrook, NY, Four Seasons company headquarters hosts more than 200,000 square feet of manufacturing space where state of the art technology meets good old-fashioned craftsmanship.



IT'S MY DREAM ROOM

I dreamed of adding a sunroom onto the back of our house for years, and finally my dream came true! It's everything I fantasized, and more. We spend more time in the sunroom than any other room in the house."
— Chastain



INDEPENDENT ACCREDITATION

Four Seasons Sunrooms is the only sunroom manufacturer that is tested and approved by all the leading accreditation agencies. We do this to ensure your comfort, safety and peace of mind. Four Seasons Sunrooms components pass rigorous independent testing, certification and qualification by independent agencies, programs and organizations. You don't have to take our word for the fact that we're #1... we've got the independent tests and approvals to prove it. Before you buy any sunroom or conservatory, ask to see their Certification and Approvals list.



ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR helps to protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. A label is attached to the glass for each window and door at our factory.



QUALIFIED REMODELER - TOP 500 ANNUAL NATIONAL FIRMS LIST #1 SUNROOM MANUFACTURER

Qualified Remodeler magazine's Top 500 list is the longest ongoing recognition program in the remodeling industry. Four Seasons Sunrooms is proud to be the highest-ranking sunroom manufacturer on the Annual National Firms List.



ICC-ES

ICC-ES performs technical evaluations of building products, components, methods and materials, which culminate with the issuance of reports on code compliance.



NATIONAL FENESTRATION RATING COUNCIL (NFRC)

NFRC administers the only uniform, independent rating and labeling system for energy performance of windows. A NFRC label is attached to the glass of each window at our factory.



AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION (AAMA)

AAMA is the source of performance standards and product certification for the window, door and skylight industry. Our windows are labeled with a permanent gold label that is affixed to the window frame.



UNDERWRITER'S LABORATORIES CANADA (ULC)

Underwriter's Laboratories of Canada (ULC) tests products for public safety and is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, under the National Standards System.



FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION (FBC)

Florida State requires approval by the State Building Commission of certain building components used as part of the building envelope.



CALIFORNIA HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FACTORY-BUILT HOUSING PROGRAM (CHCD/FBHP)

The Factory-Built Housing Program ensures the health and safety of persons using or purchasing factory-built homes (FBH) or FBH building components.



NATIONAL SUNROOM ASSOCIATION (NSA)

The National Sunroom Association (NSA) is dedicated to the advancement of the construction of safe, energy-efficient and environmentally conscious sunrooms, patio rooms and solariums. Four Seasons Sunrooms is a founding member.

An Ordinary or an Extraordinary Addition?

This is a big question, so we'll try to be objective here and give you the facts, but only you can decide what's best for you and your family. For years, the only way to build a room addition was with two-by-fours and concrete or bricks. Most people still believe that since it's the way the rest of their house is built, it's the only way. That may have been true in years past, but today, there's another, more exciting, practical and beautiful solution.

You may notice that office buildings are usually made mostly of glass because natural light and views to the outside make us happier, healthier and more productive. Hundreds of scientific medical studies have proven the health benefits of natural lighting. Shouldn't your home offer you these benefits as well?

When man first started building shelters to protect himself from the elements he didn't have access to today's modern glass technology. He or she built it from what was available: sticks and stones. Today, we have mastered the art of float glass and microscopic coatings that can improve the thermal efficiency of glass to make true, year-round living possible in a room of glass. Four Seasons Sunrooms has an exclusive CONSERVAGLASS SELECT™ product that enables you to heat and cool your new sunroom. Hundreds of thousands of people like you have done just that with dramatic success in the more than 30 years we've been in business.

If you could have an extraordinary addition that brought the healthy natural light of the sun into your family's life, with outstanding views of the great outdoors, why choose to shut all that out with a bunch of two-by-fours and plywood? A year-round addition from Four Seasons Sunrooms can open up a whole new world of experiences for you and your family. Wouldn't you like to:

- Be greeted each morning by the brilliance of a new day?
- Be soothed by the serenity of twilight and romanced by the glow of nightfall?
- Gaze at the stars at night while protected from insects in summer or the cold temperatures in winter?
- Experience a rain or snowstorm and feel like you're in the middle of it all while remaining warm and dry inside your Four Seasons Sunroom?

All these can be yours when you choose the extraordinary addition of a Four Seasons Sunroom, rather than an ordinary building of sticks and stones.



SUBTLE SIMPLICITY

The straight lines of our classic glass sunrooms make a seamless addition to your home. Our patio enclosure models include traditional and contemporary designs that provide year-round comfort and energy efficiency. Whether you desire a compact balcony to a rambling great room, a Four Seasons straight eave glass sunroom addition and patio enclosure will add beauty, light, and elegance to your home. Enjoy the view of your new home addition from both inside and out.



“ WE HAVE NEW WINDOWS ONTO OUR WORLD

Inside and out, our Four Seasons Sunroom looks as if it's always been a part of the house. We now spend most of our time there, enjoying wonderful views in all weather and seasons.”

— Jeff and Barb H.





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A WORLD OF THANKS
FOR OUR SUNROOM

I feel grateful to you for all the effort you put in the project to end up with such a beautiful addition to our house. I was very impressed by your professionalism, friendliness, and attention to detail.”





WINTER GARDENING

It is five degrees below zero, and about a foot of snow covers the ground outside. Do we care? Not at all! We're in our Four Seasons Sunroom, surrounded by tomatoes, peppers, celery, cucumbers, lettuce, herbs, and flowers."

— Victor and Mary Ann H.



ELEGANT LIFESTYLE

The elegance of our Victorian Conservatory adds architectural detail that is at once ornate and refined, befitting styles from the finest Victorian homes to the most humble suburban retreats, and the range of creative applications is endless: more livable living rooms; dreamy, sun-drenched dining rooms; brighter bedrooms; bigger kitchens that become the heart of the home.





Georgian Conservatory Classic Splendor

Taking cues from classical architecture, Four Seasons designed the English-Style Georgian Conservatory in maintenance-free and energy-efficient aluminum. A slim profile available only with Four Seasons high-strength aluminum gives this conservatory an elegance unsurpassed by competing designs.

The stately design straight from the Renaissance castles of the British Empire lends an air of majesty to any architectural home style. With a regal nose and squared-off shoulders, the Four Seasons Easy Living Georgian Conservatory is at once proud and confident. With a little more floor space than its Victorian cousin, the Georgian is an attractive alternative.



MORE THAN A LIVING SPACE

Our Four Seasons sunroom not only added extra square footage to our home, but allows us to enjoy our backyard throughout the seasons. We love how the sunroom has enhanced the look of our house. We are the talk of our neighborhood."

— Gary and Anne T.



LIVE IN STYLE

Beautiful style and elegance make the Georgian Conservatory a timeless classic. With a little more interior space than the Victorian, the Georgian enjoys a more majestic posture, as befits its kingly name.

BEAUTIFUL QUALITY

This traditional, historically correct conservatory combines simplicity and strength with elegant style and grace. From its classical architecture to its open floor space, this light-filled sunroom is as beautiful as it is efficient.

8 Simple Steps



SMOOTH AND EFFICIENT INSTALLATION

The process went ahead smoothly and we very much enjoyed working with your crew. Everybody was pleasant and helpful all along. This finished result is tremendous and we are enjoying it every day."

— Charlotte and Ulrik



1 CALL 1-800-FOUR SEASONS TO REQUEST A FREE IN-HOME DESIGN CONSULTATION

Four Seasons will refer you to the local independently owned and operated Four Seasons Sunrooms location in your area. You can visit a showroom and/or a design consultant who lives and works in your community will be happy to visit with you to discuss your plans and help you choose the Four Seasons Sunroom that will best meet your needs.

2 RECEIVE YOUR PROPOSAL

Your Design Consultant will present you with a detailed written proposal that will describe everything you discussed in your meeting. Review this document carefully. Your design consultant is a professional who wants to give you everything you need to create the room of your dreams, but you probably discussed many things and it's possible that something you thought you agreed upon was honestly and accidentally overlooked. If there is anything you thought you were getting that is not listed in the proposal, now is the time to bring it up. This document will be your contract and it's easier to change it now than after work begins.

3 PAPERWORK AND PERMITS

Like any room addition, your Four Seasons Sunroom will likely need a building permit from your local building department. This can be a time-consuming, but necessary, part of the process. Try to remember that building departments exist to protect you and your family from shoddy and dangerous workmanship. All Four Seasons Sunrooms are engineered to withstand the toughest building codes in the world, but some building departments are understaffed and it may take time for your permit application to be approved. You can be confident that your Four Seasons representative is doing everything he can to expedite the process and will have your permit as soon as possible. Once your permit is approved, your Four Seasons representative will schedule a date to begin construction.

4 THE START OF THE DREAM: THE FOUNDATION

The first step in the construction of your dream room will be the foundation work. Even if your room is going to be built upon an existing deck, there will likely be some work to insulate and maybe even reinforce the deck for the new sunroom. If you are having your room built on a foundation, the first step will be to dig a big hole or trench in your yard to be filled with concrete. This may not be your idea of a dream, but remember, you have to break a few eggshells to make an omelet. The foundation is critical to the longevity and successful completion of your room, and it will all be worthwhile in the end. There is usually an inspection by your local building department official required at this time.



5 SITE PREPARATION

In preparation for the construction of your new Four Seasons Sunroom, some work is likely to be required to the exterior of your home to tie the room into the existing structure of your house. This will probably entail the removal of some exterior siding and perhaps some structural bracing. The room will be laid out on your new foundation. If you have contracted to have your addition built on a knee wall, this will be constructed at this time.

6 ERECTION OF THE WALLS

Now is when the fun begins and you begin to see your new dream room take shape. Your installers will begin to set the walls of your new addition. This is a very exciting time for you and your crew and it will start to make the waiting and construction worthwhile.

7 GLAZING THE ROOF

Depending upon the style you have chosen, you may have a solid or glass roof on your new Four Seasons Sunroom. Once this is completed you have a real sunroom. All that's left is the finishing touches. Some of these finishing touches will be handled by your local independently owned and operated Four Seasons location while others may be completed by other specialty subcontractors like electricians; flooring professionals; painters; Heating, Air Conditioning and Ventilation (HVAC) contractors; etc.

8 FURNISH, DECORATE AND ENJOY YOUR NEW DREAM ROOM

All that's left now is to furnish, decorate and enjoy your new dream room. Depending upon the season, you may also want to consider some new landscaping to improve the amazing view you now have from your new Four Seasons Sunroom. Enjoy countless hours with family and friends as you soak up the natural light and views you have from your extraordinary sunroom from Four



Frequently Asked Questions

READ WHAT REAL CUSTOMERS ARE ASKING
From Arizona to Alberta, customers generally have similar questions about owning a Four seasons Sunroom. We have collected here the most frequently asked questions along with factual responses.

Q. DOES A FOUR SEASONS SUNROOM GET TOO HOT IN SUMMER?

A. No. Four Seasons Sunrooms uses its exclusive CONSERVAGLASS SELECT™ to help keep your sunroom cooler in summer and warmer in winter. CONSERVAGLASS SELECT™ enables you to heat or cool your sunroom or conservatory with the same types of heating and air conditioning systems you'd use in an ordinary addition, so you can use it year-round.

Q. WILL IT LEAK?

A. No. For your peace of mind all Four Seasons Sunrooms solid roof Sun & Shade Rooms use a double-drain system to ensure any water that penetrates the exterior seal is caught by the secondary drain and directed outside your sunroom. Four Seasons Sunrooms Sun and Stars Rooms and Conservatories use a combination of gaskets, sealant and drainage systems to ensure that outside weather does not get inside your sunroom.

Q. WHAT TYPE OF ROOM CAN MY FOUR SEASONS SUNROOM BE?

A. Anything you can dream. Four Seasons has built hundreds of thousands of sunrooms around the world for both residential and commercial consumers. Our residential customers have used our rooms for everything from kitchen and dining room additions to home offices and exercise rooms and even bed and bathroom additions. Our commercial customers have used our rooms for everything from new car showrooms to hotel atriums and commercial dining rooms.

Q. IS THERE A STYLE THAT MATCHES MY HOME?

A. Yes. With the largest and most comprehensive selection of Sun and Shade, Sun and Stars and English Style Conservatories in aluminum, vinyl and wood, Four Seasons is sure to have a room that matches the architectural style of your home, your personal style and your budget.

Q. WHAT COLORS ARE AVAILABLE?

A. Most of Four Seasons' Sunrooms are available in white, sand tone and bronze (although some models are not available in all three) to match most any home's color scheme.

Q. HOW BIG CAN I MAKE MY SUNROOM?

A. There is no limit to the size of your Four Seasons Sunroom. Anything you can imagine, we can build. There are hundreds of standard sizes, but if what you want is not a common size, we can custom design, engineer and build any size you want (larger sizes may require additional structural support).

Q. CAN I PUT A FOUR SEASONS SUNROOM ON MY EXISTING DECK OR PATIO?

A. Of course. Four Seasons builds thousands of sunrooms on existing decks. Of course, the deck has to be built to the building code in your area and, as you will likely use this room all year-round, you will want to insulate the deck beneath the floor of your new sunroom.

Q. ARE THEY EXPENSIVE?

A. No. A Four Seasons Sunroom can cost the same as an ordinary addition and is a great value. Of course, the larger and more options you specify, the more your room will cost initially. However, Four Seasons Sunrooms, because they can be year-round room additions, can appreciate at the same rate as the rest of your house, so your investment may be recovered at resale.

Q. DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

A. In most cases, yes, however building department regulations vary from region to region, municipality and even within localities within the municipality.

Q. CAN I ENCLOSE A SWIMMING POOL, HOT TUB OR SPA IN MY FOUR SEASONS SUNROOM?

A. Of course. Four Seasons has built thousands of spa, swimming pool and hot tub enclosures for our customers around the world.

Q. DOES IT TAKE A LONG TIME TO BUILD?

A. No. In most cases, a Four Seasons Sunroom can be built in much less time than a comparative ordinary addition. Many of our rooms are built within just a few days.

Q. CAN I INSTALL IT MYSELF?

A. Generally, no. Sunroom construction is a very specialized field. Even trained carpenters with years of experience cannot build a Four Seasons Sunroom without extensive classroom and on-the-job training.



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