

Solar Tubes Beat Traditional Skylights for Low-Cost Daylighting

Get the natural light that skylights provide — but with less cost and less hassle — by installing solar tubes instead.



How it works

Known variously as a sun tube, sun tunnel, light tube, or tubular skylight, a solar tube is a 10- or 14-inch-diameter sheet-metal tube with a polished interior. The interior acts like a continuous mirror, channeling light along its entire length while preserving the light's intensity. It captures daylight at the roof and delivers it inside your home.

On your roof, a solar tube is capped by a weather-proof plastic globe. The tube ends in a porthole-like diffuser in the ceiling of a room below. The globe gathers light from outside; the diffuser spreads the light in a pure white glow. The effect is dramatic: New installations often have home owners reaching for the light switch as they leave a room.

Cost

A light tube costs about \$500 when professionally installed, compared to more than \$2,000 for a skylight. If you're reasonably handy and comfortable working on a roof, install a light tube yourself using a kit that costs \$150 to \$250.

Unlike a skylight, a light tube doesn't require new drywall, paint, and alterations to framing members.

How much light?

A 10-inch tube, the smallest option, is the equivalent of three 100-watt bulbs, enough to illuminate up to 200 sq. ft. of floor area; 14-inch tubes can brighten as much as 300 sq. ft. ... CONTINUED PG. 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Solar Tubes Beat Traditional Skylights for Low-Cost Daylighting **Continued**

Get to Know Our Team! **3**

Featured Properties **4**



Genesee Region Real Estate Information Service, Inc. (GENRIS) Historical Annual Sales Statistics

Year (2002-11)	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Closings	11,840	12,844	12,768	13,312	12,807	12,605	10,955	10,806	10,261	9,241
Median Sale Price	\$95,900	\$102,000	\$106,000	\$112,000	\$115,000	\$117,500	\$117,000	\$116,000	\$119,900	\$120,000

Year (1992-2001)	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Closings	9,994	9,587	10,308	9,982	10,542	10,250	11,552	11,998	11,542	11,550
Median Sale Price	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$83,900	\$85,900	\$86,700	\$89,900	\$89,900	\$86,250	\$94,000

Solar Tubes Beat Traditional Skylights for Low-Cost Daylighting Cont.

“THE WORLD PROVIDES ENOUGH TO SERVE EVERY MAN’S NEED, BUT NOT EVERY MAN’S GREED.”

~ GANDHI

Popular locations for a light tube include any areas where constant indirect light is handy:

- hallways
- stairways
- walk-in closets
- kitchens
- bathrooms
- laundry rooms

The only place you don’t want a light tube is above a TV or computer screen where it might create uncomfortable glare.

Bringing a light tube through multiple levels

Channeling light down to the first floor of a two-story house is feasible if you have a closet or mechanical chase through which you can run the tube. The job can quickly become more complicated if there’s flooring to cut through, or if you encounter wiring, plumbing, and HVAC ducts.

Is your house right for a light tube?

Because installation requires no framing alteration, there are few limitations to where you can locate a light tube. Check the attic space above to see if there is room for a straight run. If you find an obstruction, elbows or flexible tubing may get around

it. It’s relatively easy to install a light tube in a vaulted ceiling because only a foot or so of tubing is required.

Make these evaluations in advance:

Roof slope: Most light tube kits include flashing that can be installed on roofs with slopes between 15° (a 3-in-12 pitch) and 60° (a 20-in-12 pitch).

Roofing material: Kits are designed with asphalt shingles in mind, but also work with wood shingles or shakes. Flashing adapters for metal or tile roofs are available.

Roof framing spacing: Standard rafters are spaced 16 inches on-center; gap enough for 10- or 14-inch tubes. If your home has rafters positioned 24 inches on-center, you can special order a 21-inch tube for light coverage up to 600 sq. ft.

Location: A globe mounted on a southwest roof gives the best results. Choose a spot requiring a run of tubing that’s 14 feet or less. A globe positioned directly above your target room can convey as much as 98% of exterior light. A tube that twists and turns minimally reduces the light.

Weather: If you live in a locale with high humidity,

condensation on the interior of the tube can be a problem. Wrapping the tube with R-15 or R-19 insulation greatly cuts condensation. Some manufacturers offer sections of tubing with small fans built in to remove moist air. If you live in a hurricane-prone area, opt for an extra-hardy polycarbonate dome.

Article From HouseLogic.com

By: Dave Toht

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Get to Know Our Team! Some Things That Might Surprise You...



AMANDA GROVER
PRESIDENT/BROKER
OFFICE EXT. 201
CELL: 315-729-4897
AMANDALGROVER@
GMAIL.COM



TRAVIS GROVER
OUR JACK OF ALL
TRADES
OFFICE EXT. 206
CELL: 315-651-
2132



SANDY KING
ASSOCIATE BROKER
OFFICE EXT. 202
CELL: 585-703-4714
SANDRAJ KING@
FRONTIERNET.NET



DAN KING
LIC. SALESPERSON
OFFICE EXT. 208
CELL: 585-703-5835
DLKING@
FRONTIERNET.NET

Is this loooong winter ever going to be over? We are anxious for warmer weather! We're also excited for the market to come into its natural spring-time flurry. Don't be afraid to secure a house or sell a house this month - the closing can be pushed out at least 2 - 3 months so you can move in better weather!

Wow, what a winter – Dan has been plowing snow non-stop! I have to say I'm loving the snow having just got in from cross country skiing! Growing up in Old Forge we learned young to play in the snow! But I think I can say for all of us in the office we are ready for SUNNY & 70!



SUE POLIZZI
LIC. SALESPERSON
OFFICE EXT. 203
CELL: 585-794-2895
POLIZZISUSAN@
YAHOO.COM

I'm ready for spring & another busy year! My older daughter recently moved to Florida, think it's time to visit again! 80 & sand sounds nice lately. My youngest will be starting her LAX season at FRED ST.,



CALVIN RUTHVEN
LIC. SALESPERSON
OFFICE EXT. 207
CELL: 315-521-0884
FLXSOLD@GMAIL.COM

Eager to put this winter and cold in the past, and am ready for spring. Recently purchased a property in Geneva that I will be updating which will keep me busy.



MARY ANN ANDERSON
OFFICE MANAGER
OFFICE EXT. 205
AMANDAGROVERSAS-
SISTANT@GMAIL.COM

I'm enjoying learning the ropes at the office and getting to know the staff! Looking forward to Spring along with everyone else in this area!

“EVERY TIME YOU
 SMILE AT SOME-
 ONE, IT IS AN AC-
 TION OF LOVE, A
 GIFT TO THAT PER-
 SON, A BEAUTIFUL



AMANDA GROVER
REAL ESTATE, LLC.

100 State Route 245
Rushville, NY 14544
Phone: 585-554-6444
Fax: 585-554-3816

FEATURED PROPERTIES



**4725 STATE ROUTE 245
NAPLES, NY 14512**

Quality Log Home!

Totally renovated in '11. Energy saving finishes & appliances. Cathedral ceilings, wood floors. Kitchen, opens up to the dining & living room. 2 bdrms, master has full bath & second full bath on 2nd floor. 3rd bdrm, den, laundry & utility room on first floor. Amazing separate studio for art, dance, man cave, guest house! 2 car+ detached garage Waterfall! Trails! 1/10 mi. from West river boat launch, HiTor, <15 min to Bristol ski, <10 min to Cdga lk.! Call Sue Polizzi! \$249,900.



**441 NEWLANDERS COVE RD
PENN YAN, NY 14527**

Year Round Seneca Lake Home!

Walk around deck over looking your 110' of waterfront. Permanent dock, 2 covered boat houses, 2 additional hoists, nice sea wall and natural beach leading to the crystal clear water. The home has wall to wall carpet, 1st floor laundry, cedar closets, eat in kitchen, Walkout basement leads to a 3 season room overlooking the Lake. Sliding glass door leads to Deck at the lakeside. Two story Garage, with elec., water and heat. Storage bldg. across track and additional lot with fruit trees and parking. Call Sandy King! \$249,000

Search the MLS 24/7!
AmandaGroverRealEstate.com
