

## BUYING GUIDE

# Cheap Roller Shutters vs Quality Shutters

"Cheap" and "quality" are weasel words on their own. The real comparison is at the spec level. What slat, what motor, what warranty. Below is the difference, line-by-line, and where each level makes sense.

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<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/cheap-roller-shutters-vs-quality-shutters>

### QUICK ANSWER

Cheap roller shutters in Australia typically use **thinner single-skin slats, generic motors and shorter warranties**. Quality shutters use foam-filled aluminium slats, major-brand motors (Somfy, Becker, Alpha, Nice) and 10+ year product warranties.

The right level depends on the window. Mid-range usually offers the best lifetime value; entry-level can be fine for low-use rear-of-house windows; premium pays off on main living glass and large sliders.

**Bottom line:** Don't pay premium prices for cheap spec, and don't buy cheap for the windows you actually use every day.

Who this is for: Homeowners deciding how much to spend per window.

## Typical price ranges

Indicative supplied-and-installed pricing across Australia in 2026. Final pricing depends on installer assessment.

| ITEM | TYPICAL RANGE | NOTES |
|------|---------------|-------|
|------|---------------|-------|

|                                                            |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Entry-level (single-skin slats, generic motor)             | <b>\$400-\$800 per window</b>      | short warranty, fewer slat options |
| Mid-range (foam-filled, major motor brand)                 | <b>\$800-\$1,350 per window</b>    | best \$/window for most homes      |
| Premium (heavy-duty slats, premium motor, longer warranty) | <b>\$1,350-\$2,250+ per window</b> | large/main windows, harsh climates |

## What changes the price

### Slat is the biggest difference

Foam-filled aluminium slats are noticeably better at heat reduction, feel more solid, and dent less easily. The price premium is modest, usually 10-20%.

### Motor brand matters more than the box says

A premium motor on a premium shutter is great. A premium motor on an entry-level shutter is still better than a generic motor on a premium shutter. Buy the motor brand even if you compromise on slat profile.

### Warranty length tells the truth

Manufacturers offering 10+ year product warranties are signalling that the product is built to last that long. 2-year warranties tell you what to expect.

## Cheap vs quality roller shutters at the spec level

| SPEC ITEM         | CHEAP                      | QUALITY                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Slat type</b>  | Thin single-skin           | Foam-filled aluminium        |
| <b>Slat width</b> | Limited (often 37 mm only) | Multiple options up to 75 mm |

| SPEC ITEM                     | CHEAP                           | QUALITY                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Motor brand (electric)</b> | Generic / unbranded             | Somfy / Becker / Alpha / Nice |
| <b>Product warranty</b>       | 2-5 years                       | 10+ years                     |
| <b>Motor warranty</b>         | 1-2 years                       | 5+ years                      |
| <b>Install warranty</b>       | Often none in writing           | 1-2 years                     |
| <b>Colour options</b>         | Limited                         | Full range                    |
| <b>Locking</b>                | Single-point                    | Two-stage often available     |
| <b>Replacement parts</b>      | Often unavailable after 5 years | Available 10+ years           |

## Where to save

Rear-of-house windows, studies, guest bedrooms. Windows you use occasionally. Entry-level shutters here are usually fine and the cost saving across the house is real.

## Where to spend

Main living glass, the master bedroom, sliding doors, anything west-facing in a hot climate, and any window above 2.4 m wide. These windows benefit most from a foam-filled slat and a major-brand motor.

## Beware the "premium" markup on entry-level kit

Some installers quote premium prices for entry-level spec. The comparison table above gives you the language to push back: "Is the slat foam-filled? What motor brand? What's the product warranty?" If the answers don't match the premium price, walk.

## Checklist before you accept a quote

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- ☐ **Identify which windows really matter**  
Main living rooms and large windows justify higher spec.
- ☐ **Ask for slat material in writing**  
Foam-filled vs single-skin is the single biggest quality signal.
- ☐ **Insist on motor brand and model**  
Generic motors are the most common reliability issue.
- ☐ **Compare warranty terms**  
Treat warranty length as a quality signal from the manufacturer.

## Frequently asked questions

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### Are cheap roller shutters worth buying?

They can be. For low-use rear-of-house windows and budget-driven jobs. Avoid them on main living glass, large windows or hot-climate west-facing windows where quality pays back over the shutter's life.

### What's the difference between cheap and premium roller shutters?

Mainly slat profile (thin single-skin vs foam-filled), motor brand (generic vs major brand like Somfy or Becker), and warranty length (2 years vs 10+ years). Slat and motor are the two biggest quality levers.

### How long do quality roller shutters last?

Quality shutters with major-brand motors typically last 15-25+ years. Entry-level shutters with generic motors often need motor replacement at 5-10 years.

## Related reading

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### Roller shutter cost overview

<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/roller-shutter-cost>

### Are roller shutters worth it?

<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/are-roller-shutters-worth-it>

### How to compare quotes

<https://shutthefrontup.com.au/how-to-compare-roller-shutter-quotes>

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is general information only. It is not professional, financial, legal or trade advice, and it does not take account of your particular circumstances, property or requirements.

All prices shown are indicative estimates drawn from marketplace data and change over time. They are not quotes, offers or valuations. Measurements, site conditions, product specification, electrical work, access, location and supplier terms all change the final figure. Only a written quote from a supplier, after inspection and final measurement, is an actual price.

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## Get quotes at the spec level that suits you.

Tell us which windows matter most. We'll match you with installers offering the right tier.

**Compare quotes: <https://shutthefrontup.com.au/quote-compare>**