Ventilated Skylight Planner

1. Project Overview

- **Location & Climate:**
    - City/Suburb: _____
    - Typical Conditions (e.g., high humidity, heavy rainfall, strong sun): _____
- **Goal(s) for Ventilated Skylight:**
    - ☐ Improve airflow in warm/humid rooms
    - ☐ Let out cooking steam or bathroom moisture
    - ☐ Reduce reliance on air conditioning/fans
    - ☐ Increase daylight in enclosed areas

Quick Tip: Jot down specific problems you're solving—e.g., mould in the bathroom, stale air in the living room, or a dark kitchen corner.

2. Room-by-Room Assessment

Use this table to evaluate each room's ventilation and lighting needs. Check or fill in details that apply.

Room	**Current Light Level**	**Ventilation Challenge**	**Potential Skylight Benefit**
Kitchen	☐ Dim ☐ Moderate ☐Bright	☐ Cooking fumes ☐ Overheat	☐ Reduce humidity ☐ Add natural task lighting
Bathroom	☐ Dim ☐ Moderate ☐ Bright	☐ Mould/Condensation ☐ Stuffy	☐ Release steam ☐ Daylight for grooming
Living Room	☐ Dim ☐ Moderate ☐ Bright	☐ Large space ☐ Poor cross-breeze	☐ Reduce AC usage ☐ Brighten main area

Bedroom(s)	☐ Dim ☐ Moderate ☐ Bright	☐ Stuffy nights ☐ Minimal windows	☐ Cool down for sleep ☐ Natural morning light
Hallway/Entry	☐ Dim ☐ Moderate ☐ Bright	☐ Lack of airflow ☐ Feels gloomy	☐ Simple fresh air ☐ Visual interest (daylight)
Other: _____	☐ Dim ☐ Moderate ☐ Bright	_____ _____	_____ ___

3. Skylight Type & Features

A. Skylight Mechanisms

- **Manual Ventilation:**
    - A hand crank or lever opens the skylight.
    - Simpler, more cost-effective; must be accessible (or use a pole if skylight is high).
- **Motorised Ventilation:**
    - Electric (wired) or solar-powered motors open/close skylight with a remote or wall switch.
    - Option for **rain sensors**—skylight closes automatically in wet weather.
- **Rain Sensors & Auto-Close:**
    - Vital for climates with **sudden downpours**.
    - Eliminates risk of accidental water intrusion.

B. Glazing & Material Considerations

- **Low-E or Tinted Glass:**
    - Minimises heat gain in sunnier climates, reduces glare.
- **Double/Triple Glazing:**
    - Improves insulation, cuts cooling costs, and lessens condensation.
- **UV Protection:**
    - Preserves furnishings, flooring, and interior finishes.

Note: Check compliance with **AS 1288** (Safety Glass) and **AS/NZS 4284** (Weatherproofing) if you're in Australia.

4. Roof & Structural Factors

- **Roof Material:**
    - ☐ Metal/Colourbond ☐ Tile/Terracotta ☐ Other: _____
    - Flashing and curb requirements differ by material.
- **Roof Pitch & Orientation:**
    - Slope: _____ degrees
    - Facing direction (N, E, S, W): _____
    - Consider placing skylights toward **prevailing breezes** for optimal airflow.
- **Load-Bearing Capacity:**
    - Confirm with a builder or installer that roof framing can support the skylight's weight.
- **Bushfire or Cyclone Prone Zone:**
    - Additional **BAL (Bushfire Attack Level)** or **wind rating** for skylights may be required.

5. Ventilation Strategy & Cross-Breeze Planning

- **Existing Windows & Doors:**
    - Identify windows/doors that can be opened at the same time as the skylight.
    - Aim for **cross-ventilation**: cooler air enters low openings, hot air exits high skylight.
- **Ceiling Height & Interior Layout:**
    - The higher the skylight in the ceiling/roof, the greater the "chimney effect" for warm air escape.
    - Open-plan rooms often benefit more from multiple ventilation points.
- **Supplementary Systems:**
    - ☐ Ceiling fans ☐ Exhaust fans ☐ Whole-house attic fan
    - Pairing fans with skylights can boost indoor air circulation further.

6. Installation & Permits

- **Local Council Requirements:**
    - Are you in a **heritage zone** or **development overlay**?
    - Do you need building approval for structural changes?
- **Installer Credentials:**

- Check **QBCC licence** (Queensland) or local building authority accreditation.
- Ask for references or portfolio (especially if pitched/tiled roof is involved).

Note: Even if minimal structural alterations are involved, verifying code compliance prevents legal or insurance issues later.

7. Budget & Timeline

1. **Product Cost Range** (Estimate):
   - **Ventilated Skylights**: From ~$700 (basic manual) to $3,000+ (motorised, remote, sensors).
   - **Glazing Upgrades**: Tinted/Low-E/Double-glazed can add 10–40% on top of base price.
2. **Installation & Labour**
   - Expect $1,000–$2,500+ depending on roof access, complexity, flashing requirements.
   - Re-roofing or structural modifications add to costs.
3. **Timeline**
   - One day for simple installations; up to a week if significant framing, weather delays, or complex motor systems.
   - **Preferred Season**: Dry periods reduce the risk of water ingress during roof work.

8. Maintenance & Upkeep

- **Cleaning & Inspection:**
  - 2× a year: Remove dust, leaves, debris.
  - Check motor function, seals, flashing after storm season.
- **Lubrication & Sensor Tests:**
  - Keep hinges and motor components moving smoothly.
  - Test rain sensors monthly or before the wet season.
- **Seal Replacement:**
  - Aged or cracked seals can cause leaks; replace promptly if noticed.
  - Typically needed every 5–10 years or per manufacturer's guidance.
- **Condensation Control:**

- If you see condensation inside double-glazed units, seals might have failed—contact a professional.

9. Planning Worksheet Summary

1. **Project Goals**
   - e.g., “Reduce humidity in bathroom,” “Brighten dark living space,” “Cut AC usage.”
2. **Preferred Skylight Type**
   - ☐ Manual Ventilated ☐ Motorised Ventilated (+sensors?) ☐ Other
3. **Glazing Features**
   - ☐ Low-E ☐ Double Glazing ☐ Tinted ☐ UV Protective
4. **Roof & Structural Checklist**
   - ☐ Confirm pitch/orientation ☐ Assess load-bearing ☐ Plan cross-breeze with windows/doors
5. **Budget & Timeline**
   - Approx Product Range: _____
   - Approx Labour Costs: _____
   - Target Installation Window: _____
6. **Maintenance Commitment**
   - Frequency of checks, cleaning, seal replacement schedule, etc.

10. Final “Action List”

1. **Consult a Professional Installer**
   - Provide them with your “Ventilated Skylight Planner” notes and ask for a thorough roof inspection.
2. **Request Multiple Quotes**
   - Compare at least two or three estimates for materials, labour, and post-installation support.
3. **Check Local Rebates/Incentives**
   - In Queensland, some energy-saving or green-building rebates might apply if the skylight includes solar or high-insulation features.
4. **Schedule at an Optimal Time**
   - Plan for drier months if possible—avoid mid-wet season roof openings.

5. **Follow a Maintenance Calendar**
    - Mark your calendar for seasonal cleaning and checks. Keep receipts and warranties handy in case repairs are needed.

Optional Extras & Add-Ons

- **Smart Home Integration:**
    - Link skylight motors with temperature/humidity sensors or voice assistants (e.g., Google Home, Alexa) for automated control.
- **Insect Screens:**
    - Essential in mosquito-prone areas—choose retractable or integrated screens for easy cleaning.
- **Decorative Ceiling Surrounds:**
    - Aesthetic frames, LED strips, or crown moulding can accentuate the skylight's interior finish.
- **Solar-Powered Blinds/Shades:**
    - Eco-friendly shading that can open/close automatically, especially helpful for large skylights.

Download & Print

To keep everything organised, **download this "Ventilated Skylight Planner"** and print it out. Tick off items as you proceed through **quotes, scheduling, and final installation**. Bring it to meetings with installers or architects so you can clearly convey your requirements and track your decisions.

Remember: A **well-chosen ventilated skylight** can drastically improve **airflow, comfort, and natural light**—especially in warm, humid regions. With **careful planning** and **regular upkeep**, your skylight will keep your home feeling fresh and welcoming for years to come.