Choosing Your Windows

Materials

Wood-framed windows provide good insulation, but are heavy and high-maintenance.

Vinyl-frame windows insulate well and don’t need painting.

Style

Single-hung, double-hung, and sliding windows leak more air than casement, awning, and hopper windows.

Cleaning & Maintenance

Some materials and features make windows easier to care for. Tilt-in sashes, for example, make cleaning easier.

Installation

If your windows aren’t installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions, you might not get the savings or comfort you expect.

An Energy-Rating Label to Help You Shop

Look for the National Fenestration Rating Council’s label when you shop.

Energy Savings

How much will new windows save you on your energy bill? It depends on factors like:

• what your existing windows are made of
• how well your home is insulated
• the size of your home and the number of windows it has
• the shade around your home
• the climate you live in

Cost

Price per window can range from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. It depends on the materials and features you choose for your new windows, as well as installation costs.

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For More Information

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U-factor:

Rates how much heat escapes through a window. This is most important in cold climates.

Range: 0.2 – 1.2

Visible Transmittance:

Rates how much light comes in.

Range: 0 – 1

Condensation Resistance:

Rates how well a product resists condensation.

Range: 1 – 100

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient:

Rates how much heat from the sun is allowed in. This is most important in warm climates.

Range: 0 – 1

Air Leakage:

Rates how much outside air comes in.

Range: 0.1 – 0.5

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