

5 Tips for Shopping for New Home Windows

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Windows are an invaluable element to any living space. They enhance the airflow within the home, provide natural lighting, and improve your home's curb appeal. High-quality and well-maintained windows could last well over 20 years.

However, you will want to purchase new home windows if you notice that:

- *They are warped, damaged, or broken*
- *Your home is in dire need of a makeover, or you are renovating an old house*
- *They are damaged as a result of a severe storm*
- *Your utility bills are abnormally high*

In this post, we guide you on how to buy home windows.

1. Choose Your Materials Wisely

Replacement and new construction windows could be made of vinyl, aluminum, and fiberglass. Vinyl windows are particularly common due to their affordability and durability. They are also energy-efficient and weather-resistant. Although aluminum windows are quite durable, their frames are thinner and are poor when it comes to insulating. Fiberglass windows are slowly gaining popularity as they are more durable than vinyl. The window material you choose will be influenced by the climate in your area.

2. Consider Buying Energy-Efficient Windows

Choosing ENERGY STAR® rated windows has the following benefits:

- They reduce your heating and cooling costs by regulating the amount of heat that gets into or escapes from your home
- The glass technology used in the making of energy-efficient windows is similar to that used in the manufacturing of car windshields thus enhancing your home's safety
- They minimize the amounts of UV rays that get into your home and damage your interiors
- The warmer interior surface eliminates or minimizes the formation of condensation and frost

3. Choose a Suitable Window Style

The different styles of windows include; single-hung, double-hung, sliding, and tilt and turn windows. Your choice will largely depend on your personal preference and your home's architectural style. Each is operated differently. For instance, single-hung and double-hung windows feature two sashes, however, in the former, only the bottom sash can be operated. Sliding windows feature two or more sashes that hang horizontally. The operation of sliding windows differs from brand to brand.

4. Pay Attention to Warranties and Other After-Sale Services Offered

Windows are a huge investment for your home. Therefore, you should choose products that have installation and manufacturing warranties. This ensures that you are covered in the event of faulty products as well as mistakes or damages that occur during installation.

5. Know Your Contractor

Choosing a contractor who is not reliable compromises on the lifespan of your newly installed windows, their performance, and efficiency. When selecting a contractor, consider their certifications, insurance, and affiliation with relevant bodies. Get an idea of their work history by exploring reviews from their past clients. You can also ask them for a list of references.

A reliable contractor should also be willing to provide you with a window replacement proposal in writing. The contract should stipulate the scope of the job, cost estimates, and the tentative time of completion.

The Bottom Line

High-quality windows require little or no maintenance. However, you will still need to inspect them annually for signs of condensation, air leaks, and difficulties when closing or opening. Fixing these problems immediately ensures that you do not have to deal with costly repairs in the future.

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