



What to Look for in Replacement Windows





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Benefits of Replacement Windows

Windows are some of the most unique and important aspects of your home. Not only do they impact both the interior and exterior design of your house, but they also have to provide protection from the elements outdoors. If you notice your windows are letting in too much cold air, they're becoming more difficult to close or they're taking away from the aesthetic appeal of your home, it may be time for replacement windows.

Quality replacement windows have been shown to improve the resale value of a home, make cleaning significantly easier and help boost energy efficiency. But in their simplest terms, replacement windows can help you get the exact look you want for your house inside and out.

Once you start to notice the signs that your old windows are in need of replacement, talk to a window design expert to get the panes and frames that are perfect for you.

Check out this useful information on the styles, materials and types of replacements that can help you and your designer make an informed decision.

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Styles

Installing new windows is an excellent opportunity to get the style that you want in your home. There are a number of window designs that can give you both improved function and aesthetic benefits. Talk to your designer about a few of these options:





DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS

This double-pane window option allows you plenty of room to add design touches such as grilles or grids in a variety of shapes and designs. Not only is the functional window easy to use on a daily basis, but cleaning the inside and outside of the glass is a cinch.



CASEMENT WINDOWS

Casement windows are one of the most popular window types for their simplicity and beauty. It's great option for nearly any room in the house. Many can hinge in such a way to make cleaning the exterior easier.





PICTURE WINDOWS

Picture windows may not open like casement or double-hung windows, but they can provide natural light in small areas. These smaller horizontal areas can add a lot of character to a room.



BOW AND BAY WINDOWS

If you're looking to make your windows the focal point of the room, bay and bow windows are your best options. These large window options come in a number of shapes and sizes and will help make any room feel much larger.





SLIDER WINDOWS

If your old sliders don't slide anymore, or you have a space where a swinging sash would be in the way, a slider window, also known as a glider, is the perfect solution for your home. They operate smoothly and are very efficient with respect to air infiltration.



CUSTOM WINDOWS

If there isn't an exact window style that you want, talk to your window design expert about the custom options that may be available.





Glass

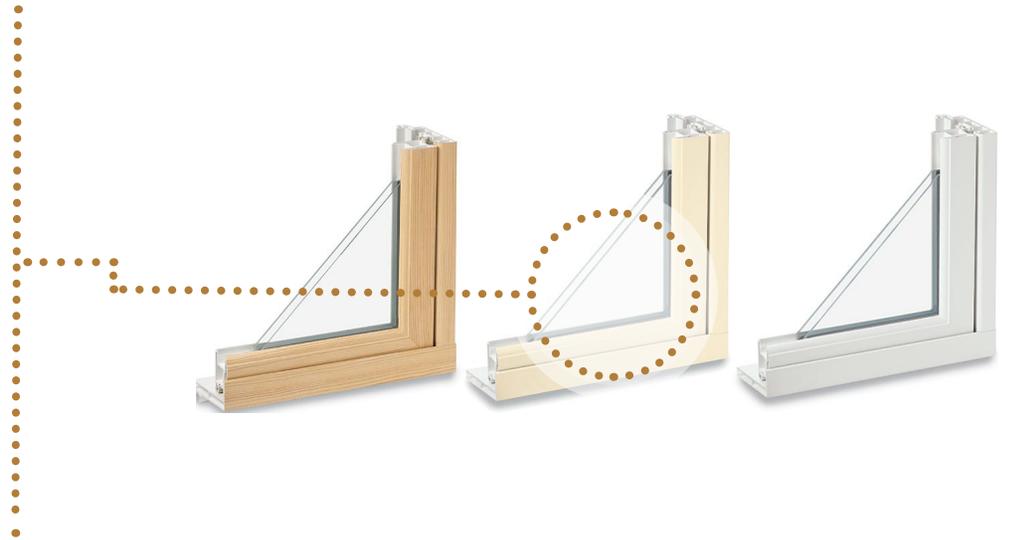
It's not just the frames that come in different styles – your window's glass can as well. The best glass for your windows depends on the style you want and the function you need it to accomplish. Explore these options:





ENERGY-EFFICIENT GLASS

If you're looking to keep the heat inside in the winter and out in the summer, you should consider energy-efficient glass. Whether gas-filled, insulated or coated with sun-reflecting glazes, these glass options can cut that energy bill.



DECORATIVE GLASS

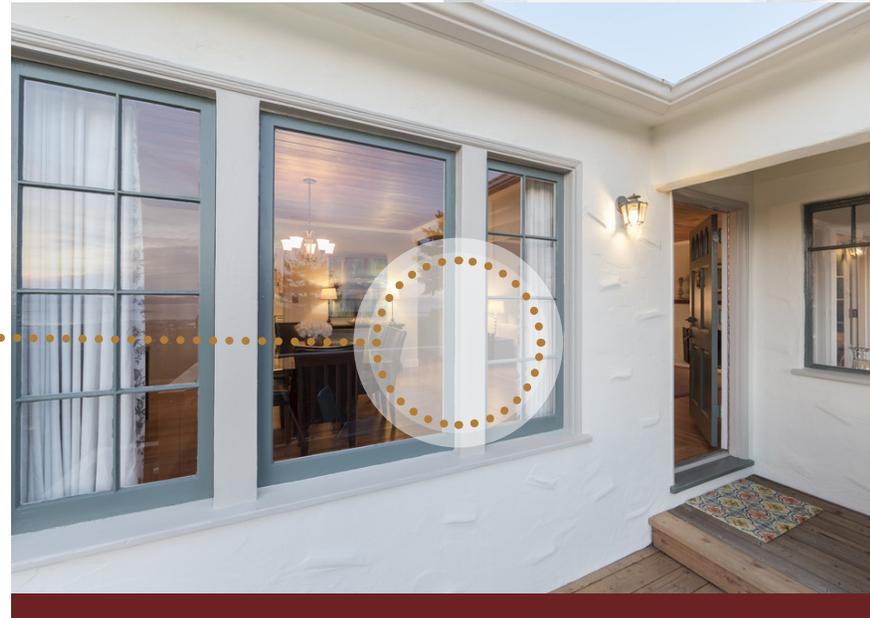
Reed or frosted glass may not have the same functional benefits as other glass styles, but they'll improve your curb appeal and interior design.





SOUND-DAMPENING GLASS

Don't worry about noisy neighbors or bustling traffic with this glass. It helps reduce the decibels outside to mere whispers indoors.



OBSCURE GLASS

Obscure glass can keep your home more private. This glazed glass prevents people from seeing into your home. It's a great option for bathrooms or bedrooms.





TEMPERED GLASS

Tempered glass is three to four times stronger than an average pane of glass. Made through a special process, tempered glass doesn't break under normal pressure and never shards if it does break. This is ideal for windows that are close to the floor or located in high-traffic areas.



SECURITY GLASS

Protect your home from intruders with security glass. These glass options, such as laminated panes, make it difficult to break into your home, while other options alert your home security system when broken.





Important Questions to Ask Your Designer

To get the perfect replacement windows for your home, you need to have a long conversation with your window design expert. The more he or she knows about what you're looking for, the better the window options you'll get. Here are a few questions you can ask your designer to help narrow in on exactly what you want:

WHICH FRAME MATERIAL DO YOU RECOMMEND FOR MY HOME?

You may have your heart set on wood frames, but your designer may prefer the much stronger and insulated fiberglass. Make sure you're on the same page, whether it's aluminum, vinyl, wood or fiberglass. There are many options that can give you the look of wood, with the benefits of a more durable material.





WHAT INSULATION, WEATHER STRIPPING AND U-VALUE DO I NEED?

When you're dealing with cold temperatures for half the year, it's critical that your windows protect you from the weather outside. Let your design expert tell you about your various insulation options and learn about u-values as a quick way to compare different glass and windows. When it comes to energy-efficiency, it is best to stick to using objective energy measurements, like those from Energy Star. Windows must be a $U=0.3$ or lower to qualify as Energy Star windows. The lower the U-value, the better the rating of the window.





HOW HAPPY ARE YOUR PAST CUSTOMERS? HOW EXPERIENCED IS YOUR BUSINESS?

Windows can only be as good as their installation. Homeowners should find a business that has a proven track record and plenty of experience. You want to feel confident knowing that your investment is in good hands and the company will be there if you need anything.





1999 Hempstead Turnpike
East Meadow, NY 11554

877-44-ALURE
877-442-5873

www.alure.com

