

# Are Your Windows Efficient?

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

We rely on windows for light, ventilation and even warmth, but they also can impact your home's energy efficiency. When windows allow air to enter your home, it negatively impacts the indoor temperature, causing more strain on your HVAC system.

The Department of Energy recommends adding storm windows to reduce air leakage and improve comfort levels. To correct cracks, gaps or joints less than 1/4-inch wide, the DOE recommends using caulk or weather stripping.

If damage is past a repair, however, it might be time to invest in energy-efficient windows.

## CHOOSING ENERGY STAR WINDOWS

The ENERGY STAR program was launched by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and is now managed by the Department of Energy. When looking for efficient windows to replace the ones currently in place, look for the Star.

Here's what qualifies a window as ENERGY STAR, as reported by the DOE:

- They are manufactured by an Energy Star Partner;
- They are independently tested, certified and verified by the National Fenestration Rating Council; and



## REAL ESTATE 101

### ENERGY STAR Savings

Installing ENERGY STAR-certified windows, doors, and skylights can shrink energy bills — and carbon footprints — by an average of 12 percent nationwide, compared to non-certified products, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. When replacing single-pane windows with ENERGY STAR-certified windows, the typical homeowner can save \$101 to \$583 annually, the equivalent of 1,006 to 6,205 pounds of carbon dioxide. When replacing double-pane, clear glass windows, homeowners can save \$27 to \$197 per year, the equivalent of 246 to 2,001 pounds of carbon dioxide.

- They have NFRC ratings that meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the United States EPA.

Windows also are rated by how well they perform in dif-

ferent climates. Seek assistance from a professional at your local building-material store to find out which windows will be most efficient when installed in your area.

### TIPS TO BOOST EFFICIENCY IN WINDOWS

Investing in new windows for your entire home can be tough for some budgets, especially if they all require

replacement. In the meantime, remember these tips from the DOE to boost the efficiency of the windows currently installed.

#### COLD WEATHER TIPS

- Close curtains and shades at night to protect against cold drafts.
- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames to reduce drafts.
- Repair and weatherize your current storm windows, if you feel cold air entering.

#### WARM WEATHER TIPS

- Install awnings on south- and west-facing windows.
- Close curtains on south- and west-facing windows during the day.
- Install white window shades, drapes or blinds to reflect heat away from the house

#### BENEFITS OF ENERGY STAR WINDOWS

Aside from the energy costs you'll save by installing qualified windows, you can gain other benefits when you make the investment.

Your home will feel more comfortable once the cold drafts and overheated spaces have been eliminated. You also will see less damage to floors, carpet and furniture, thanks to low-emissivity (Low-E) coatings featured on qualified windows.



## Are Your Windows Efficient?

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

**W**e rely on windows for light, ventilation and even warmth, but they also can impact your home's energy efficiency. When windows allow air to enter your home, it negatively impacts the indoor temperature, causing more strain on your HVAC system.

The Department of Energy recommends adding storm windows to reduce air leakage and improve comfort levels. To correct cracks, gaps or joints less than 1/4-inch wide, the DOE recommends using caulk or weather stripping.

If damage is past a repair, however, it might be time to invest in energy-efficient windows.

### CHOOSING ENERGY STAR WINDOWS

The ENERGY STAR program was launched by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and is now

managed by the Department of Energy. When looking for efficient windows to replace the ones currently in place, look for the Star.

Here's what qualifies a window as ENERGY STAR, as reported by the DOE:

- They are manufactured by an Energy Star Partner;
- They are independently tested, certified and verified by the National Fenestration Rating Council; and
- They have NFRC ratings that meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the United States EPA.

Windows also are rated by

how well they perform in different climates. Seek assistance from a professional at your local building-material store to find out which windows will be most efficient when installed in your area.

### TIPS TO BOOST EFFICIENCY IN WINDOWS

Investing in new windows for your entire home can be tough for some budgets, especially if they all require replacement. In the meantime, remember these tips from the DOE to boost the efficiency of the windows currently installed.

### COLD WEATHER TIPS

- Close curtains and shades at night to protect against cold drafts.
- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames to reduce drafts.
- Repair and weatherize your current storm windows, if you feel cold air entering.

### WARM WEATHER TIPS

- Install awnings on south- and west-facing windows.
- Close curtains on south- and west-facing windows during the day.
- Install white window shades,

drapes or blinds to reflect heat away from the house

### BENEFITS OF ENERGY STAR WINDOWS

Aside from the energy costs you'll save by installing qualified windows, you can gain other benefits when you make the investment.

Your home will feel more comfortable once the cold drafts and overheated spaces have been eliminated. You also will see less damage to floors, carpet and furniture, thanks to low-emissivity (Low-E) coatings featured on qualified windows.

### REAL ESTATE 101



### ENERGY STAR Savings

Installing ENERGY STAR-certified windows, doors, and skylights can shrink energy bills — and carbon footprints — by an average of 12 percent nationwide, compared to non-certified products, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. When replacing single-pane windows with ENERGY STAR-certified windows, the typical homeowner can save \$101 to \$583 annually, the equivalent of 1,006 to 6,205 pounds of carbon dioxide. When replacing double-pane, clear glass windows, homeowners can save \$27 to \$197 per year, the equivalent of 246 to 2,001 pounds of carbon dioxide.

### HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Buyer's broker:** a broker who represents the buyer in effectuating a purchase. Normally in residential real estate transactions, the buyer's broker shares the commission received by the listing broker, who represents the seller.

**SOURCE:** Columbia University

# AD SPACE