



5 Factors to Consider When Replacing Your Windows

We spend much of our lives indoors, especially in the cold winter months. As we're inside, our home's windows become our connection to the outside world, providing natural light and a way to see what's going on around us. But what if your windows aren't doing their job? Condensation is clouding the view, drafts are getting in around the edges, and the locks are no longer functioning. Maybe it's time to get new windows. What are some factors to consider when looking at new windows?

1. Energy-efficiency- You may be throwing money out the window if that window is old and drafty. Double-paned windows with low-E glass can save you energy costs. Low-E glass has a thin coating that helps keep the temperature inside your home consistent. Adding an argon fill to your window can further increase energy efficiency. Argon is a harmless gas that is denser than the atmosphere and provides a type of clear insulation to your window. Keep in mind that energy-efficient windows may be eligible for tax credits. Ask for Energy Star recommendations when looking at new windows.

2. Climate- In a four-season climate like Indiana, windows must be able to keep heat out in the summer and keep cold out in the winter. Single-pane glass is not practical in climates with a wide range of temperatures. Triple-pane glass is an option for climates with extreme heat and cold, but double-pane glass is usually suitable for all temperatures.

3. Your home's style- Those fancy windows may look great on HGTV, but will they work for your home's overall style? Consider the architectural style of your home when selecting a window. Remember that keeping window sizes the same will help save construction costs that may come into play when installing larger windows. Casement windows, double-hung windows, bay windows, or sliding windows are options to consider for your home. Ask a professional for advice on the best windows to improve the overall look of your home.

4. Professional installation- While "do it yourself" is a popular philosophy these days, some projects are best left to the pros. Sometimes a simple project can get expensive with time spent, trips to the home improvement store, and incorrect products purchased.

"Just because you can do a project doesn't mean you should. Window installation involves more than just swapping an old window for a newer window," shared Mike Neal of Neal's Custom Exterior. "We need to know the wall's thickness and how the wall around the window is involved with the home's structure. We also have to install the proper balance of insulation so that a window isn't trapping moisture but is energy efficient."



5. Your budget- Windows are available in a wide range of prices. It's worth spending a little more if the investment into windows will pay off in home value and energy efficiency. The Department of Energy estimates that \$35 billion in energy is lost through windows every year. So consider buying the best windows you can afford, even if you need to replace them in stages instead of all at once.

Neal's Custom Exterior is available to answer all the questions you may have about windows for your home or business. Contact us for a free estimate- 765-529-6087.