

WHITE PAPER



Six Things to Look for in a Replacement Window

Important topics to research before you make a purchase.

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If you have been thinking about replacing the windows in your home, there are six important topics to research before you make a purchase. When researching, you will find the most up-to-date window innovations, which have been developed to provide your home with comfort, energy efficiency and aesthetic appeal. These attributes will not only be enjoyed by your family, but will add resale value to your home. High-quality replacement windows are an investment, giving you energy cost savings now and long-term resale value in the future.

There are plenty of window manufacturers offering a wide range of experience, quality and service. Many windows are available through big box retailers, but others are sold exclusively through dealers or online. Regardless, here are some things to consider when researching replacement windows:

Customization

The “one-size-fits-all” option found in many retail stores can prove to be less efficient if the fitting isn’t exact. Improperly fit windows throughout a house, even with a very slight gap in each, can collectively accumulate to a sizeable breach in efficiency. Windows sold through retail stores have limited styles and energy efficiency ratings. You will see a noticeable difference when comparing custom windows to retail options. Custom-made windows provide a perfect fit, removing any chance of air leakage due to an improper fit, thus, improving the efficiency of your home.

Construction

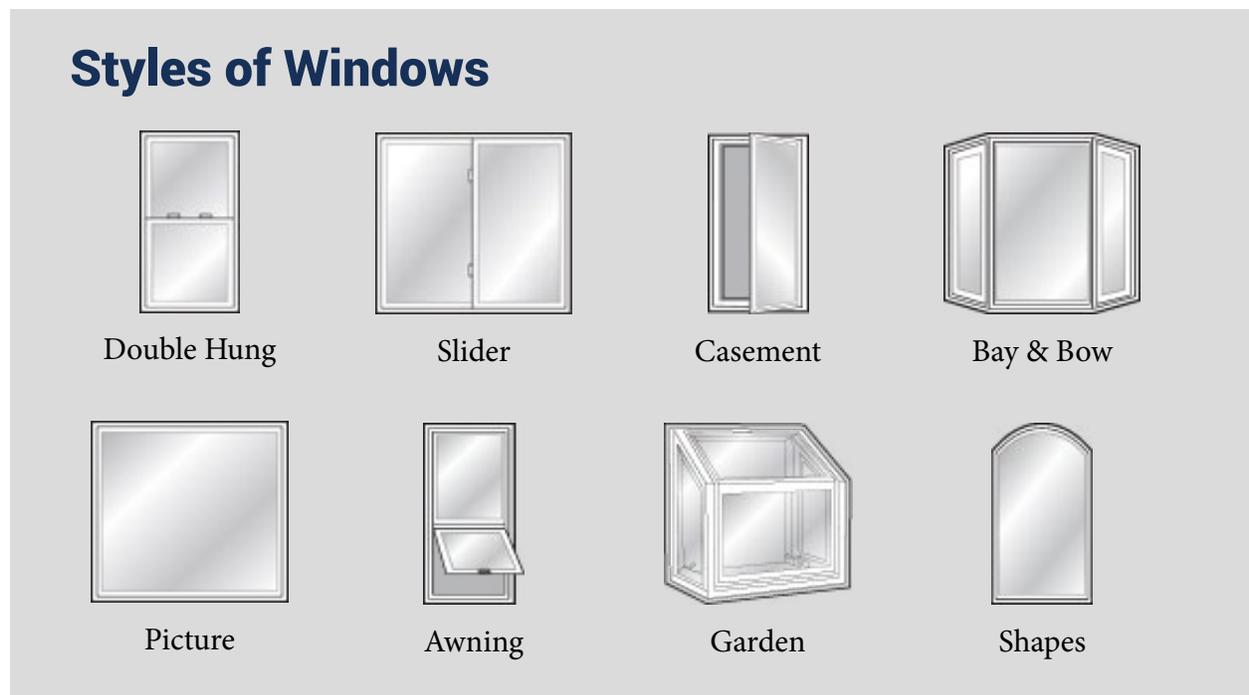
Windows are manufactured in a variety of materials, including vinyl, wood, aluminum and even fiberglass. Although an all-wood window may look nice in your home, years of weather will take its toll on the wood, creating problems with the window. On the flipside, vinyl windows may lack appeal on the inside of your home. Consider windows made with a sturdy, maintenance-free vinyl exterior that withstand the harsh elements of the weather, yet allow you to choose a nice furniture-

grade wood interior to complement the inside of your home. ProVia's AeriSM wood-clad vinyl windows allow you to do just that. The wood can be painted or stained to a color of your choosing, while giving you the option to easily change it years later without having to replace the entire window. This is one of the many advantages of custom-manufactured windows.

Style

Windows are portals to the outside world. Your home's architecture and surroundings play an important part in selecting a window style. Popular styles include double-hung, casement, awning, slider, bay, bow, picture and garden windows. Each have specific functionality and visual appeal. Some window manufacturers may not have the style you desire – it is best to shop around so you can get what you truly want. Windows are an expensive purchase, so you will want to make the right decision.

Custom-made window manufacturers, such as ProVia[®], have the expertise to assist you in selecting a style from many options that suit your home and budget. Check out the [ProVia website](#) for interactive functions such as the Visualizer which enables you to either upload a photo of your home to see how various window styles look or choose from an existing selection of homes to find one similar to yours.



Aesthetics

Starting with the style of window you select for each room, windows will make an impression from both the inside and outside of your home. The exterior of your windows look great when matched to the architectural style of your home. The interior of your windows should add warmth and complement your home's décor. Adding grids to your windows can make them unique for your home. Several grid styles, patterns and colors are available for all window types.

You may also want to consider adding the look of stained-glass in some windows. While this may not be available at retail stores, a custom window manufacturer can incorporate the stained-glass effect. ProVia's Inspirations Art Glass™ gives you the freedom to do that. This glass adds distinctive style and charm by allowing you to choose from several designs and color palettes. Each piece is filled by hand, designed to mimic traditional stained-glass. In-house designers can work with you from conceptual design to finished product. Inspirations Art Glass is covered with a Limited Lifetime Transferable Warranty.



The exterior of your windows look great when matched to the architectural style of your home.

ProVia's MasterFit™ Interior Trim System™ will give the finishing touch to the interior of your window. This trim product is available in several paint and stain finishes and is interlocked to give it a continuous look. Select from a variety of MasterFit Trim profiles to complement the woodwork in your home.

Energy Efficiency

An energy efficient window is made from a high-quality frame and sash design accompanied by a specific glass package. When doing your research, look for "Energy Star" ratings, awards, national recognitions and testimonials by the window manufacturer. ProVia has been awarded several times – most recently for Partner of the Year – Sustained Excellence for Door and Window Manufacturing. You will also want to review window glazing options and NFRC ratings, including air infiltration and condensation resistance. Energy efficiency is a very important aspect of windows, so this is something you will not want to take lightly.

Warranty

Some replacement windows have limited warranties against defects or failure. Look for companies that provide a strong warranty backing their products. For example, ProVia has a Lifetime Limited Transferable Warranty which covers window failure and defects, including labor, glass and hardware under normal use. The warranty is even transferable to one subsequent owner, which will add resale value in the event you sell your home.

In summary, it is critical to do your homework before purchasing replacement windows. Windows are not something you buy often. They are typically a once-in-a-lifetime purchase. Seek high-quality, energy-efficient windows that offer the style you want and carry a strong warranty. Remember, a strong warranty means the manufacturer believes in their product. Custom-made windows are not a hassle. A professional ProVia dealer will work directly with you to get exactly what you want in a timely manner.

About the Sponsor:

ProVia's doors, windows, vinyl siding and manufactured stone meet or exceed respective industry standards for energy efficiency, beauty, durability and quality. They also offer a high level of customization available to suit your needs. Paired with quick, efficient delivery - ProVia makes it possible for you to have exactly what you want, when you want it.