

# Tips For Buying Weatherproof Windows

## Weatherproof Windows Can Help Conserve Energy, Lower Heating Bills

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**MADISON, Wis.** -- Many Wisconsin residents replace the windows throughout their homes in an effort to lower heating bills, increase their comfort levels and conserve energy.

As an added incentive, homeowners who install energy-efficient windows are entitled to a tax credit of up to \$1,500.

But according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value Report, some replacement windows are better than others.

"Replacing windows used to be about saving money, specifically heating costs. Of course that's still true, but saving the environment is just as important," said Scott Young, president of AHT Windows, based in Clintonville. "The best windows prevent heat loss during winter and heat gain during summer, last longer, conserve energy and prevent the destruction of trees and forests."

But the challenge for homeowners is knowing what constitutes a weatherproof window as opposed to a simple piece of glass.

Young gave some recommendations for picking out a window that is truly weatherproof. He said the window must meet the following five tests:

1. **Triple pane.** Standard windows consist of two panes of glass. Top performing windows are triple-pane: three layers of glass that provide an additional air space compared to standard windows.
2. **Two layers of Krypton Gas.** Three panes allow for two layers of air space, which cut decibel noise by half. Traditionally filled with argon, the latest windows use krypton in the air spaces, which is twice as dense as argon, and are hermetically sealed to prevent the leakage of gases.

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- 3. Two layers of Low-E coating.** An extra layer of Low-E coating enables new windows to work twice as hard to reflect radiant heat back into your home in the winter, and keep out the sun's damaging ultraviolet light in the summer, Young said. Allowing sunlight in, but blocking 95 percent of ultraviolet rays means that hardwood floors, draperies and furniture don't fade as quickly and can last up to three times longer.
- 4. Temper Seal edges that move.** Typical aluminum or metal spacers that hold window glass are rigid, expanding and contracting according to the temperature. This give can create gaps that result in seal failure. Temper Seal moves with the glass eliminating gaps; and because the spacers are not made of metal (the best conductor of heat and cold), these windows are energy-efficient, Young noted.
- 5. Composite material.** Not only are composite windows environmentally friendly -- preventing the destruction of trees -- but the durable material, used by NASCAR, Boeing and NASA, is 400 percent stronger than vinyl so it lasts much longer.

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