

Energy Efficient Windows

Why we care

Space heating requires more energy than anything else in our homes, and as much as one third of the average home's heat loss occurs through windows and doors. By focusing some attention on windows, we can reduce heat loss, increase comfort, and cut the use of fuels that contribute to climate change.

Simple, positive change

- Before addressing windows, make sure your ducts in the attic, garage, and crawl space are well sealed and insulated and that the house is air sealed and insulated.
- Use shades or drapes and close them at night to reduce heat loss. Compare options at EfficientWindowCoverings.org and [Energy Efficient Window Attachments](#).
- Update existing windows.
 - If you have single panes, consider exterior **storm windows**. Look for frames that maximize insulation value, such as wood, composite wood, or fiberglass. Vinyl frames pose hazards to human and environmental health in their manufacture.
 - Interior storm windows come in two types. Inserts, such as those by [Indow Windows](#) made of acrylic edged with silicone, can be removed. Window kits, consisting of clear plastic and double-sided tape, are the cheapest option but are not removable.
- Another option is **replacement windows**.
 - Choose Energy Star products that meet or exceed code. Compare choices based on the U-factor. The lower the U-Value, the better.
 - Costs may be partially recouped through an [Energy Trust](#) rebate.
- Visit Energy.gov for more information about energy efficient windows.

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org.

1/20/21