



Homes of Distinction, Built with Integrity



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## Are Dollars Flying Out Your Windows?

With our nation's focus on energy conservation and energy savings on the rise, it's no surprise that upgrading windows has become one of the most popular tasks for remodeling projects. Not only do today's modern windows offer better appearance and function than their predecessors, but their modern materials and design can provide better performance than ever before. That translates into lower bills and dollar savings for you.

So how can replacing old, worn windows put money back into your pocket? Let's take a look at today's energy-efficient choices for homeowners:

### An Array of Window Frames

Homeowners have long selected **wood frames** for their natural beauty and classic look, as well as their ability to insulate well (since wood is not a good conductor of heat). But, extra care must be taken to keep them from fading, cracking and warping when exposed to the elements. Be prepared to pay a premium price for quality wood frames with a high level of craftsmanship.

Today's **metal frames** use a "thermal break," a built-in separation between inner and outer frames, to fight temperature changes that lead to condensation. Metal has the advantage of being strong and standing up to the elements, with new finishing technologies providing more color choices than ever before.

**Vinyl frames** are a popular choice that can offer great performance for an affordable cost. The plastic-type material will stand up to exterior influences of weather, yet show a neutral finish inside. Well-made frames from reputable companies can be sturdy and well functioning.

A newer hybrid design option is to combine two frame materials. This can be seen in Marvin Clad Casemaster Windows. These frames have an exterior of extruded aluminum and an interior of finish-quality wood. This creates a "best of both worlds" design. The aluminum will stand up to exterior forces while the wood can offer a rich appeal and flexibility for finishing.

### Window Glass Made for Performance

One of the most important advances in glass construction is the double-paned window, which creates another type of "thermal break" between interior and exterior environments. This benefit is enhanced by filling the spaces between panes with inert gas, and adding performance glazing and coatings to cut down on heat gain.



Installation Is Key

2009 Top 500 Remodelers



Our staff members hold the following industry certifications:

- Certified Remodeler
- Certified Remodeling Carpenter
  - Certified Lead Carpenter
- Certified Kitchen and Bath Remodeler
  - Certified Green Building Professional



But remember, getting top-of-the-line windows will do you no good if they are not installed properly. Sealing of windows is key in order to support good performance in your home. Windows are one of the major areas where leakage and air intrusion can happen, negatively impacting other systems. Properly installed insulation or heating/cooling equipment can suffer from poor window installation and cause

unnecessary utility usage.

As a general contractor supplying quality goods and services, we rely on our suppliers to get the job done and create happy customers. Bruce Bauer Lumber & Supply is one of these preferred suppliers and our source for information on modern window choices. With a wide array of window products from Andersen, Marvin and Milgard, you can count on them for an easy ordering process, timely delivery and a high level of customer service. Please visit their [website](#) to learn more about what they can provide for your building and remodeling needs.

*Photos courtesy of Andersen Windows*

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## Home Maintenance Tip: Clear Your Gutters and Downspouts

Fall is a great time to clean your gutters and downspouts of leaves and other debris. Make sure water flows freely through them and away from the house. Otherwise, a leak could cause water to build up along the foundation and possibly weaken it.

**Chris**

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