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FALL 2012

Three Steps To Warmer Windows



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Old Windows Can Be Repaired

New is not always "better"



Thinking of replacing your windows? Chances are good, you do not need to. As you feel the draft of cold air, it's easy to think that old windows are the problem. Most of the time they're not. An energy auditor will tell you that drafts are usually caused by poorly insulated ceilings or roofs.

Since most drafts are caused by air leaks, the first step is to find the leaks and seal them up. Many window salespeople will

not tell you that it is less costly and more efficient to replace the weather seals on your old windows. An older wood window can be repaired to seal as tightly as new ones.

Replacement windows rely on a sealed double pane of glass for efficiency, lowering the conductive heat loss. But that double pane effect can also be gotten with a good storm window. In fact, an old single-pane wood window in working order plus a good storm window has almost exactly the same R-value (about 1.8) as a new double-paned window. Old wood windows can last for well over 100 years with proper maintenance. Replacement windows, on the other hand, only last 15 to 20 years and can't be repaired.

Three Steps To Warmer And More Efficient Windows

If your windows are drafty, try these three things:

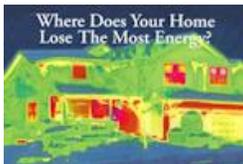
1) Repair and Restore-Cold air leaks in through cracked panes and disintegrating glazing--the putty that holds the glass to the sash. Cracks in the frame, or space where the window doesn't close properly can all be repaired. An experienced professional can restore older to nearly original operating condition. Often a restored window is more efficient than a new vinyl window.



2) Weatherstripping-You want to focus on



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three separate places. The first is where the top and bottom, (of the sash, the part that moves) meets the rail (or sill). Install a gasket where the two meet. Second are the jambs. These are the vertical surfaces that the window slides along. Pros recommend a strip of spring bronze that can be bent to the right angle to cover the gap. Third is the place where the upper and lower sashes meet (known as the meeting rail.) What you use there depends on the size of the gap. For larger gaps, using two interlocking u-shaped metal pieces on the sides of the sash that meet will seal out drafts.

3) Install A Storm Window- Storm windows provide the effect of a double pane for a fraction of the cost. In fact, just adding a high-quality storm window, without changing the existing window at all, has an energy savings payback time of only 4.5 years, compared to 40.5 years for a regular replacement window.



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