

WINDOW REPLACEMENT GUIDE

FOR YOUR HOME



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Abstract

Replacing windows in Sydney is a smart investment that enhances your home's energy efficiency, aesthetics, and comfort. With the city's variable climate, opting for high-quality, energy-efficient windows can help reduce heating and cooling costs while maintaining a comfortable indoor environment. Professional window replacement services in Sydney ensure precise installation, offering various styles and materials to suit your home's design. From double-glazed options to durable frames, you can find tailored solutions to meet your needs. Whether upgrading old windows or addressing structural issues, expert guidance ensures a seamless process, improving your home's value and functionality in the vibrant Sydney setting.

1. Introduction

Upgrading your home with new windows can enhance its aesthetics, energy efficiency, and overall comfort. This Window Replacement Guide for Your Home in Sydney is designed to help you navigate the process effortlessly. Sydney's diverse climate calls for windows that provide proper insulation and durability, making material and style selection crucial. Whether you're replacing old, worn-out windows or upgrading to modern designs, this guide covers everything from choosing the right materials to finding reliable professionals for installation. With expert tips and insights, you'll be equipped to make informed decisions that enhance your home's value and functionality in Sydney's dynamic environment.

2. Signs It's Time To Replace Your Windows

Your house may not be able to talk to you, but nevertheless, it gives you signs when something's not right. A home's windows are particularly communicative. Although they don't last forever, high-quality, well-maintained windows could last for 20 years or more, but there are many factors at play. (Windows in a coastal city like Charleston, SC, might age faster than they would in Los Angeles, CA, for example.) If your windows are more than a few decades old, listen carefully to what they're telling you, so you'll know when they need to be replaced. Here's what to be on the lookout for.

It's sometimes possible to repair a window instead of replacing it. If your window's problem is minor, such as needing new weatherstripping or hardware, a repair might be the best option. But replacing a damaged, warped, or broken window sash or frame is almost always preferred to attempting a repair. "Even if the windows are still operable, they can develop problems," says Kris Hanson, Senior Group Manager in Product Management at Marvin Windows and Doors. Do your windows fog up? Are they drafty? Do they stick when you try to open or close them? Do they refuse to stay open? If your windows are communicating in those ways, they're telling you to replace them.

You want to reduce your energy bill

Windows provide some heat in the winter by letting in sunlight. But drafty windows can cause your energy bills to be about 10% to 25% higher, according to Energy.gov. Replacing your windows with energy-efficient ones can reduce your heating and cooling bills. Bonus: If you're considering listing your home for sale, those new windows — and the resulting energy cost savings — can be a big selling point.



But don't assume all windows are the same; it's important to consider your specific needs. One factor? Your location. "Marvin offers a wide range of energy-efficient options and can tailor your windows to best suit your climate," says Hanson. "Insulating glass is standard in all Marvin windows, along with thousands of options that meet the Energy Star Most Efficient designation, the highest standard for efficiency for the program."

Windows are one of the most prominent features of a home, and if they look worn, your house will too. Look to see whether the color is fading or the window material is warping, or whether old screens or storm windows detract from the curb appeal of your home, suggests Hanson. "Architects and builders know that good design is critical for the longevity of a structure. Design considerations are a close second to quality when selecting new windows, and the overall vision or design theme of a home or space should be a driving force in the window selection process," he adds.

While you're upgrading your home's appearance, you might also wish to change the type of window from a fixed sash to a window that opens. This way, "you can create a more comfortable interior and improve airflow through your home," says Hanson. Another option? Install larger windows to increase a room's natural light, which has aesthetic and health benefits: According to the Lighting Research Center, daylight environments increase productivity and comfort, plus help regulate your circadian rhythms for better general wellness.

You just survived a severe storm

If you live in a hurricane impact zone or another area prone to severe weather events, you're probably prepared for the possibility of damaged windows. In fact, just living near the coast can do a number on your home's exterior, including your windows. "If you worry about the effects of sea salt, humidity, or coastal winds, consider Integrity windows made with Ultrex fiberglass," says Hanson. "These windows resist corrosion and remain stable in extreme temperatures because of a material that expands at the same rate as glass." But even if you don't live in a coastal region, if your top priority in a window is low maintenance, windows made with Ultrex fiberglass would be a smart

choice. “The finish is three times thicker than the competitors’, which ensures Integrity windows won’t crack, dent, chip, or peel — they’re virtually maintenance-free,” adds Hanson.

You’re renovating a historic home

Maybe you moved into a historic home that suffers from vinyl replacement windows that detract from the home’s historic charm. The wrong window can dramatically change the overall look of a historic home and can even interfere with its integrity. If your goal is to install historically accurate replacement windows, a company that can handle custom requests should be your go-to. “Marvin specializes in creating customized windows to match one-of-a-kind spaces as well as producing exact replicas of historical homes,” says Hanson.

3. How Much Does Window Replacement Cost? Top Brands and More

Home window replacement is a necessity when problems arise, such as air leaks, water infiltration, thermal leaks, fogged glass, or insect intrusions. When it's time to choose windows for your home, you have the choice of two types: new construction or replacement windows. New-construction windows have nailing fins that attach to the wall sheathing that's under the siding. Replacement windows do not have nailing fins and slip right into the existing frame without the need to remove the siding. The average price range to replace windows is \$300 to \$2,100 per window, depending on many factors and the scope of the project.¹

Read this helpful guide to determine what you need for your window replacement project.

Replacement Window Costs

The cost to replace your windows depends on factors such as locale, window materials, type of glazing, and type of window. Even though replacement windows may prove to be a major investment in your home, they tend to return decent resale value when it comes time to sell your house. Here are the average window replacement costs and the cost of replacement windows by materials, according to the latest figures from HomeAdvisor.²

Average Window Replacement Cost

Low - \$300

Average - \$850

High - \$2,100

The average range per window is \$300 to \$2,100 to replace. The average cost of installation is \$40 to \$65 per hour. Complex installs can cost \$600 or more per window.

Replacement Windows by Material

Aluminum windows: Aluminum window replacement typically costs between \$75 and \$400 per window.

Vinyl windows: Vinyl window replacement typically costs between \$100 and \$900 per window.

Wood windows: Wood window replacement typically costs between \$150 and \$1,300 per window.



Composite windows: Composite window replacement typically costs between \$300 and \$1,200 per window.

Fiberglass windows: Fiberglass window replacement typically costs between \$500 and \$1,500 per window.

What Is a Replacement Window?

A replacement window is a window that is smaller than the existing window and which replaces a majority of the existing window, such as the glass and moving parts. So, replacement windows are not a one-for-one, exact replacement. Replacement windows are sometimes called pocket windows or insert windows to reflect this.

In general, if the visible portion of your existing window is deteriorated or damaged, and its physical operation doesn't work well anymore, it's time to consider replacement windows.

Replacement vs. New-Construction Window

Replacement windows might seem like the only solution for your needs. But sometimes the areas around the window, such as window sills, are heavily damaged by rot or moisture and a replacement window can't be installed.

If the area around the window is very rotted and not structurally sound, then you likely need a new-construction window. This type of window comes with fins on the outer side of the window to allow it to be nailed onto the house. Replacement windows do not have any fins. This allows the window to slide into the opening, which would be fine if the area is not rotted.

Double-Hung vs. Single-Hung Windows

Both single-hung and double-hung windows have a lower sash (or pane) that slides upward. When the house gets too hot, you unlatch the window and slide the lower sash up.

But with single-hung windows, the upper sash is fixed in place and inoperable. Only the lower sash slides up and down. With double-hung windows, both sashes can move. This is especially valuable for upper-story windows because it allows you to clean windows from the inside. Also, it is safe if you have small children because you only need to open the upper sash for air.

If neither conditions apply to your home there is little reason to buy double-hung windows. You will save some money with the single-hung windows. Plus, with fewer moving parts, the single-hung windows have less of a chance of failure.

Fixing vs. Replacing Windows

If you have high energy bills you may think it's best to replace all of your windows. In some cases, this may be premature and a waste of money. Instead, you may need to fix a failed window seal.

The seals on the existing double-glazed windows may have failed, allowing cold or heat to more easily pass into the house because crucial argon or krypton gas has escaped. One indication that the glass has failed is fogging on the inside, between the panes of glass. In this case, it is possible to repair the window or replace the window sash.

Best Time to Replace Windows

Windows can be replaced in any season but it may be best done in milder weather. That's because caulking may not set all that well in very cold conditions. Moisture from inclement weather may also affect the tight tolerances needed for window installation. The only downside about scheduling during temperate seasons is that it's a popular time of year for this type of project and you may be on a waiting list to have your windows installed.

Do-It-Yourself Window Replacement

You can certainly save money by replacing your own windows. But you will find a limited selection at home centers that only stock a few new-construction windows and where it will be tough to find replacement types. You can, however, order replacement windows or go through a window replacement company for custom-made sizes. However, it may be beneficial to have professional window installers do this job since they have the necessary tools and skills needed to finish the job in a reasonable time.

Popular Window Brands

Prominent companies with visible brand names such as Pella, Andersen, and Marvin tend to have good follow-up customer service, robust warranties, and a rich selection of window types, sizes, and styles. Other notable and reputable window companies include Jeld-Wen and Velux USA.

Window Glazing: Single, Double, and Triple

Windows are considered energy-wasters compared to walls, which are more insulated. Windows and walls both have R-values, which is the standard by which energy loss is measured. For walls and attics, an R-value of 1 to 2 is poor, which is why these areas are typically filled with fiberglass batt insulation that has R-values of 13 or greater. You'll come across R-values when shopping for windows.

When it comes to a window, anything above an R-value of 2 is considered good. Here's how single, double, and triple-pane windows stack up to help you choose.

Single-Pane

A single-pane window has an approximate R-value of 1, which does not offer much insulation.

Double-Pane

A double-pane window, or double-glazed window, consists of two sheets of glass with an air or inert gas such as krypton or argon in the middle. A double-pane window can increase your energy efficiency by almost 100 percent. Double-pane windows are standard, even in parts of the country that have temperate climates.

A standard double-pane window has an R-value of about 1.5 to 2.0.

A double-pane window with low-e glazing (a coating that reflects heat) has an R-value of 2.4 to 3.0.

A double-pane window with a low-e glazing using an argon gas fill has an R-value of 2.7 to 3.6.

Triple-Pane

Triple-pane windows may potentially reach an R-value of between 5 and 8, depending on various factors. For extreme climates, consider purchasing triple-pane windows.

Tips for Buying Replacement Windows

Few homeowners who have been through the replacement window installation process will say that they care to repeat it. But for such an expensive purchase, it's well worth your time to get three or even more estimates from window companies.

4. Window Treatment Ideas Are the Perfect Finishing Touch to Any Space

When it comes to decorating your home, it can be helpful to think of your design elements in layers. The first layer is foundational and makes up all the most substantial elements of your room—think flooring, molding, wall treatments, built-ins, and furniture. The second layer is like the jewelry to your space, those little (and big) touches that bring a scheme to life. And, like a great outfit, the right jewelry—in this case, things like lighting, window treatments, and decor—can take a look from basic to truly something special.

Let's take window treatments for example. At their core, they're a utilitarian item, helping maintain your home's privacy and shield your spaces from too much sunlight. But, as any designer will tell you, they're really so much more than that. A considered window treatment has the ability to uplevel your space in an instant, bringing more color, personality, and a custom feel to rooms big and small. To help you dream up the best curtains, blinds, or shades for your space, we're rounding up nine designer-approved window treatment ideas that show the magic of a well-dressed window in all its glory.

Add a Playful Trim

Custom window treatments are a designer go-to, but they're not your only option. Even if you don't want to spring for custom curtains or Roman shades, you can bring a bit of pizzazz to a more generic

option by adding a playful trim. Though the stunning shades seen here in a project by J Kathryn Interiors are custom, the cute pom pom fringe is an easy DIY addition you can make to any window treatment.



Match Your Patterns

Looking to go high-impact with your design choices? Consider matching your window treatments with your wallpaper. In this sophisticated bathroom by Langley Alexander Designs, a relaxed Roman shade and coordinating wallpaper—both from Thibaut—create a graphic yet timeless look.

Go Bold With Color

Window treatments can be purely functional—or they can add a punch of electric energy to your room. Case in point? This charming nursery by DAG Design. Instead of sticking with a soft baby pink as is typical in such a sweet space, designer Cara Fineman opted for Roman shades made from a zesty pink and orange Peter Dunham textile.

Create Privacy (Without Blocking a View)

There are occasions where window treatments are necessary purely for privacy purposes—but blocking a view can make a space feel shut off. The solution? Cafe curtains. This classic window treatment boasts vintage and functional appeal, allowing for light to filter in without risking prying eyes. They're especially useful in bathrooms, like this serene and light-filled space designed by Katie Davis.

Carry The Aesthetic Throughout Your Room

Choosing patterned window treatments can be a great way to add a bit of funk and personality to your space, but mixing prints isn't as easy as designers make it seem. If you want to combine like a pro, look to this space by J Kathryn Interiors for inspiration. Here, designer Jessica Kain Barton

repeated the print from her custom window treatments on nearby pillows for a look that is both cohesive and fresh.

Try a Traditional Valance

Valances get a bad rap as a relic of the '90s that few want to revisit, but they can actually be totally modern when executed correctly. In this charming space by designer Whitney Durham, a window seat gets the royal treatment with the help of bamboo shades and a custom chevron valance, which adds just the right pop of personality (along with those playful fringed pillows!).

Upgrade Your Functional Spaces

Prioritizing window treatments in the main areas of your home—think the living room, primary bedroom, and kitchen—is a no-brainer, but we're here to make a case for upgrading your more utilitarian spaces, too. Adding something like a Roman shade or pinch-pleat curtains can go a long way toward making functional rooms more enjoyable to be in. Here, Paperwhites Interiors worked a ribbon-edged Roman shade into a laundry room design scheme, proving that chores can be fun (or at least, beautiful).

Layer Your Window Treatments

You know what's better than one beautiful window treatment? Two! If you want to add an extra dose of texture and coziness to your space, consider layering various window treatments, like a Roman shade and floor-length curtain. In this airy bedroom by Katie Davis Design, a seagrass shade adds privacy and light-blocking abilities, while an additional Roman shade on top brings a bit of pattern and personality.

Swap Shades for Historical Finishes

While every room can benefit from the softness and texture traditional window treatments add, there are some instances where harder—and historical—finishes are better suited. Many antique homes used to be designed with shutters inside to block out sun and cold. These days, this timeworn and traditional feature can add vintage charm to any space, as demonstrated in this guest room seen at The Dowager Inn.

5. How to Remove and Replace Old Windows with Common Tools

If you have the right tools and tips, installing a window yourself can be a weekend project. Whether replacing a damaged window or just wanting a new look, we'll show you how to get the desired results without needing help from a professional. Check out our steps below and get started today.

Removing old windows and installing new ones as a DIY project will only work when the new one is the same size and shape as the old one and the existing one is square. To determine if your window opening is square, measure diagonally one way (from the upper left corner to the lower right corner) and then the other (from the upper right corner to the lower left corner). If the opening is square, the two measurements will be the same, give or take 1/8 inch. The slightest deviation from square can prevent the sash from closing and the weather stripping from sealing properly. You'll be stuck with drafts, condensation, and high utility bills if that happens.



Step 1

Measure Window

Successful replacements depend on good measurements of the existing opening to determine the size of your new window. Start by measuring between the left and right jambs at the top, middle, and bottom; the shortest of these three measurements is the window width. After that, measure the distance between the head jamb and sill at the far left, middle, and far right side; the shortest of these three measurements is the window height.

Step 2

Removing Old Window Trim and Head Stop

Score the paint where each piece of trim meets the existing window casing. Scoring the seams prevents the wood from splitting when you remove the trim pieces. Slide a flat pry bar behind the inside stops and remove the pieces.

Next, score head stop and gently pull it loose with pliers. Set aside for later use.

If you wish to remove the surrounding trim, use a utility knife to slice through any paint or caulk between the interior casing and the wall. Use a flat pry bar and a scrap piece of wood to remove the casing. If you'll reuse the casing, use slip-joint pliers to remove the screws.

Tip: After removing a stop or other trim pieces, use pliers to pull the nails through the back of the piece. Doing so reduces the odds that it will split or fracture.

Step 3

Remove Jamb Liner

Raise the lower sash 6 to 8 inches, then pry back the old jamb liner. Repeat with the upper sash.

Fold the jamb liner at a 90-degree angle underneath the sash. Repeat with the upper sash, folding the jamb liner across the top of the sash.

Step 4

Remove Window

Remove the old sashes and jamb liner as a single unit. You may need a helper for assistance with larger windows. With a helper standing outside to catch the window, start prying outward. You may need to tap the jambs with a hammer. Once the window is loose and ready to fall, go outside to help with removing the old window. Use proper lifting techniques to avoid back injuries.

Step 5

Insert New Jamb Liner

Install a liner bracket every 4 to 5 inches along each jamb. Make sure each bracket is level before you nail it on.

Attach the jamb liners to the liner brackets. Each liner should pop into place.

Step 6

Install Sashes

Insert the upper sash in the exterior track of the jamb liner. Open and close the sash to make sure it slides smoothly. Insert the lower sash in the interior track and check that it operates.

Step 7

Install Head and Side Stops

Reattach the head stop. Set the nails below the wood surface. Fill the holes with wood putty and touch up with paint.

Reattach the inside stops. Set the nails and fill the holes with wood putty. Caulk the seams and touch up with paint.

Step 8

Remove Casing

Use a utility knife to slice through any paint or caulk between the interior casing and the wall. Use a flat pry bar and a scrap piece of wood to remove the casing. If you'll reuse the casing, use slip-joint pliers to remove the screws.



Step 9

Remove Sash Weights

If you have an older wood window with sash weights, pull back the cords or chains and cut the ones that attach to the weights for the lower sash. Pull down the upper sash and do the same. Remove the sash weights.

Step 10

Remove Molding

On the exterior cut through any caulk and pry out the molding all around the window.

Step 11

Remove Stool and Apron

Inside the house, pry out the stool (inside sill). It may be easiest to cut through the nails first (see next step). Also, remove the apron, which is attached to the wall directly below the stool.

Step 12

Cut Through Nails

Cut through the nails that attach the jamb to the house's framing. A reciprocating saw works best for this, but you can also use a hacksaw. Or slip the notch of a flat pry bar onto the nail's shank and bang hard with a hammer to break the nail.

Step 13

Remove Insulation and Sashes

Pull out any insulation and other obstructions, and check that all the nails have been removed. Remove one or both sashes.

Step 14

Pull Out the Window

With a helper standing outside to catch the window, start prying outward. You may need to tap the jambs with a hammer. Once the window is loose and ready to fall, go outside to help pull it out.

Step 15

Removing Old Windows from the Exterior

A metal or vinyl window may have a flange nailed to the sheathing and covered with siding; in that case, you must cut back the siding. Molding that rests on top of the siding is the easiest to remove.

6. How To Clean Moldy Window Sills?

Condensation can be a serious problem in humid environments. It often leads to mould infestation in the most neglected areas, such as window sills. Mould is a fungus that loves to thrive in moist and dark areas and cause damage to the surface. It can even pollute the indoor air and affect your health.

The common sources of mouldy window sills could be faulty heating and ventilation systems, condensation buildup, excessive moisture and dirt-laden windows. The worst part is that it can rapidly grow and spread to other areas, such as inside the walls on studs, window frames, drywall and blinds. Thus, it is imperative to identify the underlying causes and prevent its further growth, especially if you are moving out of a rental apartment in Sydney, NSW.

Here is a complete guide on cleaning mouldy window sills like a pro. The following methods will target the affected area without causing any damage and help you maintain a tidy indoor environment

Let's Get Started!

1. Stock Up on Necessary Cleaning Supplies

You will need specific cleaning materials to tackle the mould spores most effectively. All you need is:

- Microfiber Cloth
- Scrub Brush
- Clean towels
- Mask
- Spray Bottle
- Warm Water
- White Vinegar
- 3 Percent Hydrogen peroxide
- Safety Gears: protective eyewear, gloves and mask

Professionals also come fully equipped with essential supplies for the best end of lease cleaning Sydney. So, arrange all materials and kill mould like a pro.



2. Keep Safety in Mind: Protective Gear and Proper Ventilation

Touching or inhaling mould spores may cause allergic reactions. It can even worsen your allergies and asthma symptoms or cause skin irritation. Therefore, you need to be extra careful and wear protective gear to stay safe during the cleaning process.

So, wear waterproof gloves, a face mask, and safety glasses. Keep your doors open to ensure proper ventilation.

3. Remove Excess Moisture From Your Window Sill

Dampness and moisture on window sills can breed mould spores. So, it is good to begin the process by drying off the surface. Wipe the sills with a microfiber cloth or towel to absorb excess moisture. This will help you tackle spores more efficiently.

Tip: Do not try to eliminate mould at this time. Remove water and moisture to let the cleaning solution break down the spores effectively.

4. Spray The Right Cleaning Solution on the Affected Area

Using chlorine bleach is the easiest way to treat mould. However, be careful when applying the solution to the surface, as it is a hazardous chemical that can leave toxic fumes behind and lead to health hazards.

According to professional end of lease cleaners Sydney, you can try the following eco-friendly alternatives:

Banish Mould Using White Vinegar

Pour 1 cup of white vinegar into a spray bottle and mist it on the moldy area. Let it sit for an hour. The vinegar's acetic acid works effectively on stubborn stains, including mould and mildew. You can also add a mild dishwashing soap to increase its effectiveness.

Cleaning with Hydrogen Peroxide

This is another great method to help you maintain clean and mould-free window sills. Fill a spray bottle with 3 % hydrogen peroxide. Apply it to the affected area and leave it for 10-15 minutes. Hydrogen peroxide is one of the most effective natural solutions that can tackle mould spores and grime without releasing toxic fumes, promoting a healthy indoor environment.

5. Scrubbing the Mouldy Spot

You can use a nylon brush or an old toothbrush to access the nooks and crannies of your window sills. Wet the toothbrush and scrub the affected area with elbow grease to cut through the mould stains.

For harder stains, scrub with baking soda. It is a natural abrasive agent that can help you easily get rid of stains and lingering germs.

Tip: Also clean your window treatments, such as vacuuming blinds regularly or washing curtains to prevent dust growth.

6. Rinse and Dry Your Window Sills

Once the mould has been removed, use a damp cloth to wipe down the clean surface. Gently wipe down the area and repeat if necessary. Make sure you allow the window sill to dry out completely. This will prevent the mould from re-infesting and keep your windows looking clean and shiny.

7. How to Prevent and Control Mould Growth on Window Sills?

Below are some proven methods to prevent mould growth on a window sill:

Get Rid of Window Moisture: In winter, condensation builds up on windows when it is warm and humid inside and chill outside. In warm months, it is vice-versa. To remove moisture buildup, use a dehumidifier and encourage airflow or proper ventilation to minimise condensation.

Regularly Clean Your Windows: Accumulated dust, dirt, and grime on the window sill can breed mould spores. So, control dust particles and wash your windows, sills, and frames to prevent further growth. Use vinegar as a natural window cleaning agent.

Apply Mould-Resistant Paint: Modern-day windows may have tight molecular structures to prevent moisture or mould growth. But it is always good to extend the safety and apply mildew—and mould-resistant paint that comes with fungicides. This will make your life easier.

Spray Tea Tree Oil: It is good to spray tea tree oil on window sills and crannies regularly. It has antibacterial and antifungal properties that keep germs and mould spores at bay.

Tip: Ensure you fix broken windows before the final rental inspection by your landlord. You can also hire experts for a budget end of lease cleaning Sydney to save your hard-earned deposited security at the end of your tenancy.

Tackling mouldy window sills requires proper tools and methods. You can use bleach carefully or opt for a natural solution like vinegar or hydrogen peroxide to kill spores and maintain a clean and hygienic living space.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, replacing your windows is a valuable investment that enhances your home's comfort, energy efficiency, and aesthetic appeal. This Window Replacement Guide for Your Home in Sydney has provided essential insights to help you choose the right materials, styles, and professionals for a seamless replacement process. By considering Sydney's unique climate and your specific needs, you can select windows that offer long-term benefits while complementing your home's design. Proper installation and maintenance ensure durability and performance, making your investment worthwhile. With the right planning and guidance, your window replacement project can transform your home into a more efficient and beautiful space.

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