



**WINDOWPRO**



THE COMPLETE HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO  
**REPLACEMENT WINDOWS**



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## A Clear View For Your Home

Windows are the eyes of your home. They provide light, warmth and a connection to the outdoors. But when they fail, they become a source of drafts, high energy bills and frustration.

**For 5 generations, the family behind WindowPRO has been dedicated to helping homeowners navigate these choices.** We know that when you prepare to buy double-pane window replacements, it's a significant investment. The market is flooded with options — vinyl, wood, fiberglass, Argon, Krypton — and finding the right fit can feel overwhelming.

We created this guide to cut through the noise. Whether you're wondering where to buy Marvin windows, how to lower your carbon footprint or simply how to stop the drafts, this guide provides the professional insights you need.



“We’re committed to providing excellent service at a fair price, **never compromising our values of quality or integrity.**”

# Is It Time To Replace?

Windows, like any vital component of your home, do not last forever. Decades of exposure to Southeast Michigan's fluctuating weather can eventually degrade seals, warp frames and compromise your home's thermal barrier.

You might notice consistent drafts, rising energy costs or simply that your home lacks the curb appeal it once had. If you find yourself nodding along to any of the warning signs listed, it is likely time to move past temporary repairs and consider a high-quality upgrade

## 1. High Energy Bills

If your heating bill spikes in winter and cooling bill spikes in summer, your windows are likely letting conditioned air escape.

## 2. Foggy Glass Condensation

Moisture between the panes of glass means the seal has failed. Once the seal is gone, the insulating gas escapes and the window loses its thermal efficiency.

## 3. Operation Issues

Windows should open and close effortlessly. If you are struggling with sticking sashes, broken cranks or windows that won't stay up, it is a safety hazard.

## 4. Drafts And Comfort

Do you feel a chill when you sit near the window? Drafts are a clear sign of poor insulation or warping frames.



# Window Replacement Is A Smart Financial Move

Investing in high-quality replacement windows is one of the smartest financial decisions you can make for your property. Beyond immediate comfort, new windows offer a tangible return on investment, securing your home's value while insulating you against rising energy costs for decades to come.



The financial benefits of window replacement extend far beyond simple aesthetics. By choosing to upgrade, you secure three distinct financial advantages that pay dividends immediately and in the long run:

## **Proven Cost Recovery**

According to the National Association of Realtors Remodeling Impact Report, window replacement is consistently ranked as a top-five remodeling project for recouping costs upon resale, protecting your equity.

## **Enhanced Marketability**

Real estate data shows that homes equipped with modern, energy-efficient windows often sell faster and command higher prices than those with outdated, single-pane units that scare off potential buyers.

## **HVAC Longevity & Savings**

High-performance glass significantly reduces the thermal load on your home. This allows your HVAC system to run less frequently, extending the lifespan of your furnace and air conditioner while drastically lowering monthly heating and cooling bills.

# What Goes Inside The Glass?

Single-pane windows are obsolete. The standard today is double glass window panes separated by a spacer. This creates a hermetically sealed barrier that drastically reduces noise and heat transfer.

## The Invisible Insulators: Argon vs. Krypton

The space between the glass isn't empty. It's filled with dense, inert gas to slow heat transfer.

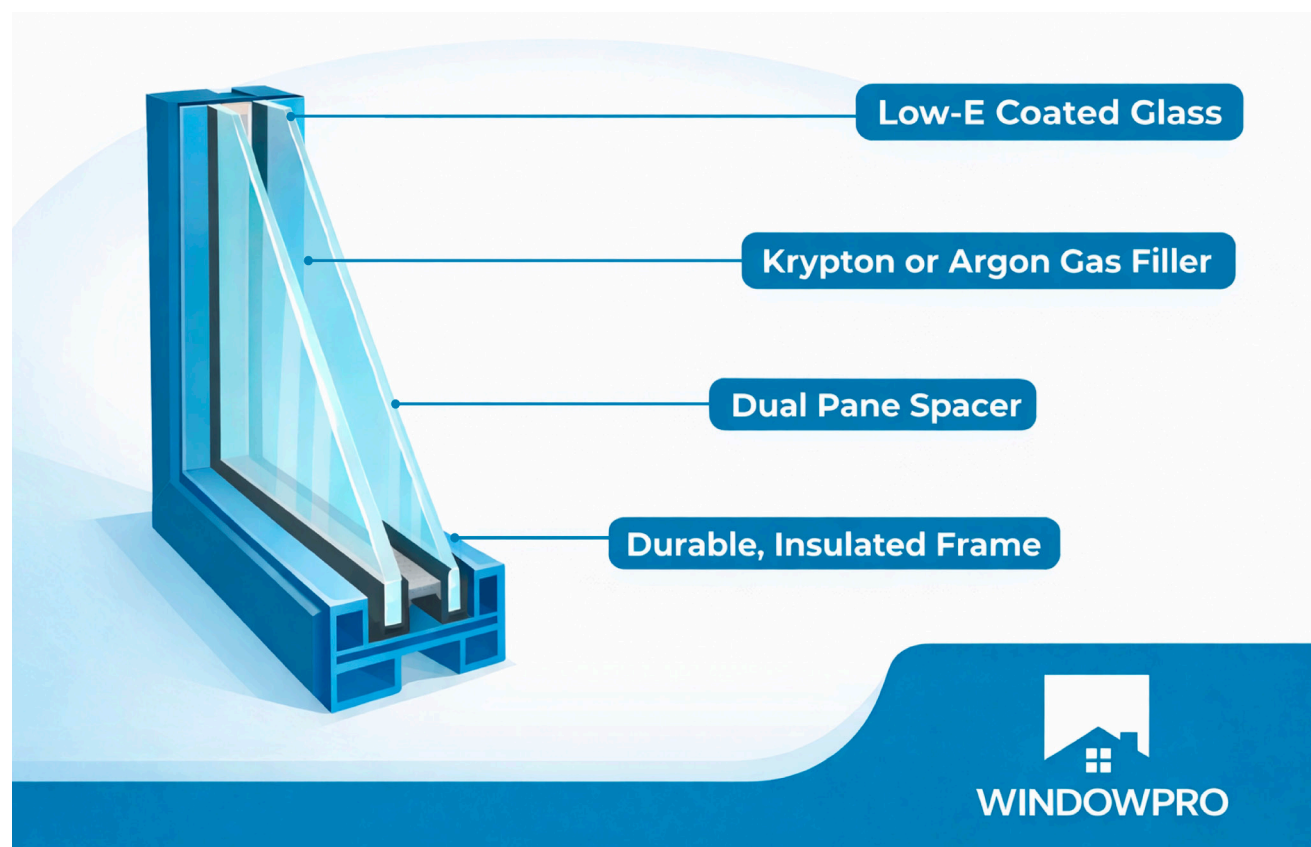
### Argon Gas In Windows

The industry standard. Colorless and odorless, it is 67% less conductive than air. Double-pane windows with argon gas offer excellent performance at a high value.

### Krypton Gas In Windows

Denser and more expensive than Argon. It is best used in triple-pane windows or very narrow gaps. Ideal for maximum efficiency.

## What Is A Double Pane Window?



## Window Coatings Are Like Invisible Protection

Low-emissivity (Low-E) coatings are a critical component of modern energy efficiency. These microscopically thin layers of metallic oxide — thinner than a human hair — are applied directly to the glass surface. While they remain virtually invisible to the naked eye, they function as a powerful thermal shield. The technology works by intelligently filtering energy:

**In The Winter** — The coating acts as a thermal mirror, reflecting the heat generated by your furnace back into the room rather than letting it escape through the glass.

**In The Summer** — It reverses that role, reflecting the sun's intense infrared heat away from your home, preventing your living space from turning into a greenhouse.

Standard glass lets in UV rays that fade carpets, artwork and furniture. **Low-E coatings block up to 99% of these harmful rays,** acting as “sunscreen” for your living room.

Beyond simply lowering utility bills, Low-E coatings fundamentally change the comfort level of your living space. Without this technology, the glass surface temperature often matches the weather outside, creating uncomfortable hot spots in July or “cold zones” near the window in January.

Low-E glass maintains a surface temperature much closer to your internal thermostat setting, allowing you to sit comfortably right next to the window year-round.

These coatings are not one-size-fits-all. We utilize specific formulations designed for the Southeast Michigan climate — balancing high solar heat control for our humid summers with high thermal retention for our freezing winters — ensuring peak performance regardless of the season.



# Frame Materials Matter: Vinyl vs Fiberglass

When selecting replacements, the frame material is the single most critical decision you will make. It dictates not only the look of your home but the window's longevity, maintenance requirements, and structural strength.

## The Contenders

### Replacement Vinyl Windows

The industry's budget-friendly standard. While popular for its low price point, it often sacrifices long-term structural integrity.

### Fiberglass (Infinity by Marvin)

The professional performance choice. Engineered to outlast and outperform, this material represents the modern standard for durability and strength.

### Wood

The classic aesthetic choice. While unmatched in traditional warmth, it typically requires aluminum cladding to survive the elements and demands diligent maintenance.

## Why not just choose the cheapest option?

While minimizing upfront costs is tempting, the true "lifetime cost" of a window reveals a different story. In Southeast Michigan's harsh freeze-thaw cycles, "cheaper" materials often fail prematurely. By investing in superior materials now, you avoid the inevitable expense of future repairs and the headache of a second replacement just a few years down the road.



## The Limits Of Vinyl Window Frames

Vinyl (PVC) windows are often marketed as the budget-friendly standard, but savvy homeowners must ask: are vinyl windows good for the long term? To understand the risk, you have to answer: what are vinyl windows, really?

They are essentially plastic extrusions. While plastic is cheap to produce, it lacks the structural stability required for our climate.

In Southeast Michigan, temperatures swing dramatically from sub-zero winters to humid, scorching summers. This causes replacement vinyl windows to expand and contract at a rate much higher than the glass they hold. This thermal wrestling match puts immense stress on the weather seals. Eventually, the seals lose the battle.

### How long do vinyl windows last before this happens?

It varies, but seal failure — resulting in foggy, condensation-filled glass — is a common plague of aging vinyl. As UV radiation attacks the plastic frame over the years, the material can become brittle, warp and discolor, turning a new purchase into a maintenance headache.

There is also the issue of curb appeal. Because a vinyl window lacks inherent strength, manufacturers often compensate by making the frames thick and bulky. This reduces your visible glass area and blocks natural light. Additionally, painting vinyl to change your home's color palette is risky and often voids the warranty.

“While vinyl may win on the initial price tag, **it often loses the war against Michigan weather**, leading to drafts, seal failures, and premature replacement.”



# Infinity By Marvin

We're a proud Infinity by Marvin Dealer, exclusively offering Marvin replacement windows made with Ultrex® Fiberglass. This material isn't just a step up from vinyl — it's an entirely different class of performance. Pultruded fiberglass is engineered to handle the extreme temperature fluctuations of Southeast Michigan without faltering, offering a permanent solution where other materials fail.



## Unmatched Strength

Ultrex is eight times stronger than vinyl and three times stronger than wood composites. This incredible rigidity allows for much narrower frames and larger glass areas, giving you more daylight and expansive views without sacrificing structural integrity.



## Superior Stability

Glass and fiberglass are made of the same base material — silica sand. Because of this, they expand and contract at nearly the exact same rate. This synchronization prevents the stress cracks and seal failures that plague vinyl windows, keeping your home airtight for decades.



## Lasting Beauty

The patented acrylic finish is chemically bonded to the frame, making it impervious to fading, chalking, scratching and peeling. It requires virtually no maintenance, ensuring your windows look as pristine in year 20 as they did on day one.



# Selecting Your Style

## Double Hung Windows

Double hung windows are the quintessential choice for traditional American architecture, offering a timeless aesthetic that never goes out of style. Their versatile design allows both the top and bottom sashes to operate independently, giving you superior control over airflow and ventilation throughout your home.



### The Look

Classic and traditional.

### Function

Two sashes slide vertically.

### Best For

Bedrooms and living rooms where you want excellent ventilation and easy cleaning (most tilt in!).

## Casement Windows

Casement windows are the ideal solution for homeowners seeking a sleek, contemporary look with unobstructed views. Because they have no center rail and crank outward effortlessly, they capture passing breezes better than any other style while providing the industry's tightest seal against drafts when closed.



### The Look

Clean, modern unobstructed.

### Function

Hinged at the side, cranks outward.

### Best For

Hard-to-reach spots (like over a kitchen sink) and maximum airflow. They offer the tightest weather seal when locked.

## Sliding Windows

Sliding windows (or gliders) are the ultimate solution for space-conscious homeowners who refuse to sacrifice a view. Because they glide horizontally rather than swinging outward, they are perfect for high-traffic areas like patios, walkways or decks where a protruding sash would be an obstruction.



**Bonus**  
The simple mechanical design makes them incredibly durable and easy to operate as you age.

### The Look

Horizontal, sleek and minimalist.

### Function

Glides effortlessly side-to-side on a track.

### Best For

Rooms facing porches, decks or walkways where you need ventilation without blocking the path.

## Specialty Shapes

As a specialty retailer, WindowPRO goes beyond the standard rectangle. Specialty shapes allow you to act as the architect of your own home, adding dramatic flair and flooding dark spaces with natural light. These are fixed units designed to frame specific views or accentuate high ceilings.



**Bonus**  
Because they don't open, they are the most airtight and energy-efficient windows available.

### The Look

Unique, custom and architectural (Arches, Polygons, Rounds).

### Function

Fixed glass (does not open).

### Best For

Framing scenic outdoor views, adding light to vaulted ceilings or creating a focal point in a master bath or foyer.

## The Infinity By Marvin Collection

The Infinity by Marvin collection represents the pinnacle of replacement window technology. By replacing bulky vinyl with pultruded fiberglass, these windows offer a sleek, streamlined profile that mimics the craftsmanship of traditional wood without the maintenance. It is the perfect marriage of modern engineering and timeless design for your home.



Homeowners often ask us, are Infinity by Marvin windows good? The answer lies in the revolutionary material: Ultrex® fiberglass. Infinity by Marvin windows are built entirely from this material, which is so strong it is used in bridge construction.

Unlike vinyl, which is prone to warping and fading, Ultrex undergoes a patented acrylic finishing process. This finish is mechanically bonded to the frame, creating a surface that is three times thicker than competitive finishes and resists scratching, chalking, and fading even after years of harsh UV exposure.

The design philosophy is equally impressive. Infinity by Marvin windows feature much narrower profiles than standard Marvin replacement windows competitors, providing up to three inches more viewing area per window. This streamlined look maximizes natural light while maintaining superior energy efficiency.

For homeowners comparing Infinity by Marvin windows vs Renewal by Andersen or other composites, Infinity by Marvin offers a cleaner aesthetic with a longer-lasting, virtually maintenance-free finish that stands the test of time.



## Marvin Ultimate Collection

The Marvin Ultimate Collection is designed for homeowners who refuse to compromise on architectural detail. It combines the warmth and beauty of real wood interiors with a virtually indestructible aluminum-clad exterior. This collection is the gold standard for historic renovations and custom design projects where precision and aesthetics matter most.

If your home demands historical accuracy or specific interior aesthetics, the Ultimate Collection is the premier choice among Marvin windows. Unlike the all-fiberglass lines, this collection features rich wood interiors available in a wide array of species—including Oak, Cherry, and Walnut—that can be stained to perfectly match your existing trim and cabinetry.

On the exterior, these windows are protected by commercial-grade extruded aluminum cladding. Finished with a superior PVDF fluoropolymer paint, it resists chalking and fading for decades. This construction gives you the best of both worlds: the classic elegance of wood inside and armor-like protection against Michigan weather outside.

The design versatility is unmatched in the world of Marvin replacement windows. Whether you need a unique radius arch, a custom divided light pattern to match a historic home, or massive sizes for a modern wall of glass, the Ultimate Collection offers the customization to bring any architectural vision to life.

## Window Energy Ratings Explained

When shopping for what are the most energy-efficient windows, it is easy to get lost in marketing jargon. The only way to truly compare performance is by reading the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) label found on every new window. This objective, government-backed rating system provides standardized metrics for energy performance, allowing you to compare double-pane windows with argon gas against triple-pane options or different frame materials without bias. Understanding these numbers is key to maximizing your ROI.

Here are the three critical metrics you need to know for the Michigan climate:

### U-Factor

This measures how well the window prevents heat from escaping your home. Think of it like a golf score—lower is better. For our cold winters, you want a U-Factor of 0.30 or lower to ensure your home stays warm.

### Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)

This measures how much solar radiation passes through the glass. In our climate, you want a balance: low enough to block summer heat spikes, but high enough to allow some passive solar warming in winter.

### Visible Transmittance (VT)

This simply measures how much natural light enters the room. Higher numbers mean brighter rooms.



## Premium Window Installation

You can purchase the most expensive, high-performance window on the market, but if it's installed poorly, it's essentially worthless. In fact, improper installation is the leading cause of premature window failure.

When vetting window installers in Michigan, it's crucial to understand that a bad install doesn't just mean a drafty room. It can lead to catastrophic structural damage. Water infiltration from poor flashing can rot your home's framing unseen for years.

Plus, if a window isn't shimmed correctly, the frame can twist, causing sash sticking, lock failure and often voiding your manufacturer's warranty immediately.



“Even the highest-rated window is only as good as the person installing it. That’s why **we obsess over the details others ignore.**”

At WindowPRO, we believe installation is a master craft, not a commodity. While many general contractors view vinyl window installation in Michigan as a quick “rip and flip” job, our teams are factory-trained specialists dedicated to precision.

We don't just insert a window — we painstakingly prepare the opening. We ensure every unit is plumb, level, and square to guarantee effortless operation. Crucially, we focus on the “invisible” work — integrating premium flashing and insulation systems around the window to completely restore your home's weather barrier. We treat your home with white-glove care, protecting your floors and leaving the site spotless.

## Caring For Your Windows

Wash glass surfaces gently using a soft cloth and mild soap solution.

Avoid abrasive pads or harsh chemicals that can damage Low-E coatings.

Vacuum window tracks annually to remove dirt, debris and dead bugs.

Inspect exterior caulking yearly for cracks to prevent water infiltration.

Rinse screens with water to remove dust and improve airflow.

Operate all sashes seasonally to ensure hardware remains moving freely.

While products like Infinity by Marvin are engineered to be virtually maintenance-free, these simple steps ensure peak performance. Regular care protects your warranty and keeps your energy bills low. By spending just ten minutes a year on inspection and cleaning, you ensure your windows operate effortlessly and look beautiful for decades.

## Comparing Products

Many homeowners ask us about Pella vs Marvin windows or Infinity by Marvin windows vs Renewal by Andersen. While all have merits, we believe Ultrex fiberglass offers the best balance of strength and value.

Depending on your priorities, compare vinyl, wood and fiberglass to find out which window material is right for you.

### Vinyl vs Wood vs Fiberglass

FEATURE	VINYL	WOOD	FIBERGLASS (INFINITY)
Strength	Low	Medium	High
Maintenance	Low	High	Low
Expansion /Contraction	High	Low	Very Low
Aesthetics	Bulky/Plastic	Warm/Classic	Clean/Modern
Price Point	\$	\$\$\$	\$\$

## You Asked, We Answered

### Q. How long does the installation take?

Most residential projects are completed in just 1-2 days. We work efficiently to minimize disruption to your daily routine, protecting your furniture and flooring, and ensuring we leave your home cleaner than we found it.

### Q. Can I replace windows in the winter?

Absolutely. Winter is an excellent time to schedule for faster availability. Our professional crews close off one room at a time to minimize heat loss, completing the job efficiently without freezing out your home.

### Q. Do you offer financing?

Yes. We partner with trusted lenders like GreenSky® and Michigan Saves to offer flexible payment plans. This allows you to complete your project now and pay over time with competitive rates.

### Q. What is the difference between full-frame and insert replacement?

Insert replacement slides a new unit into your old frame. While cheaper, it reduces glass area. We prefer full-frame replacement, where we remove the entire unit down to the studs. This allows us to inspect for rot, insulate properly, and maximize your view.

### Q. Why do my new windows have condensation on the outside?

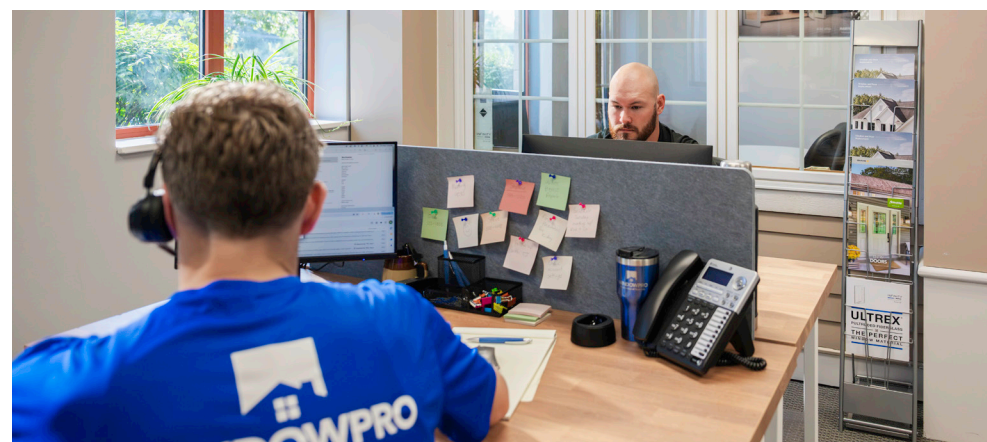
External condensation is actually a good sign! It means your double-pane windows with argon gas are working. The glass is insulating so well that the exterior pane stays cool (reflecting the outside temperature) rather than warming up from escaping indoor heat.

### Q. Will new windows reduce outside noise?

Yes. Upgrading to double-pane windows significantly dampens street noise. The insulating gas and tight weatherstripping create a sound barrier, making your home noticeably quieter and more peaceful immediately after installation.

### Q. How do warranties work?

As a certified dealer for Marvin and Provia, we back our installations with industry-leading manufacturer warranties on glass and materials, plus our own workmanship guarantee. We handle the paperwork so you are fully protected.



## Quality You Can See. Experience You Can Trust.

For over a century, WindowPRO has been defined by a simple promise: to treat every home with the same care we would our own. As a fifth-generation family-owned business serving Southeast Michigan since 1923, we're not a "here today, gone tomorrow" contractor. We're a legacy built on integrity, standing behind our work long after the trucks pull away.

We refuse to cut corners. As a proud Infinity by Marvin dealer, we pair superior installation craftsmanship with the industry's top-rated fiberglass products to ensure your investment lasts a lifetime. We believe in education over sales pressure, offering a transparent, no-hassle consultation process designed to give you options, not stress.

Ready to transform your home? Don't navigate your window replacement project alone. Contact us today for a free, no-obligation quote and discover why thousands of your neighbors trust their view to us.

### Contact Us Today

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WindowPRO It's the view of your life... it's WindowPRO





## WindowPRO Windows





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