Choosing the right Window

A few things to consider when choosing Windows and Doors are window types, what type of materials are used to manufacture the products, function-ability, glass options & different accessories available.

Window types:

- Sash replacements

  Most common in older homes with wood Double Hungs existing. An effective way to install true Wood windows at a lessor cost.

- Sash replacement with frame (Inserts)

  Common in replacement of older wood windows, aluminum windows and vinyl windows. Some people reference these as pocket windows or retro frame replacements. An effective way to install windows while not disturbing the interior trim and, in some cases, the exterior trim.
• Complete frame replacement with new interior and exterior trim

Common when re-building an opening or when the complete interior needs replaced. New exterior trim will likely be installed using this method.

Window Materials:

• Vinyl (PVC) windows- Low cost, energy efficient, low maintenance, weather resistant.

• Composite windows (Fibrex, Fiberglass)- Strength, durability, energy efficient, low maintenance, eco-friendly, weather resistant.

• Wood windows- Beautiful appearance, unlimited color options, strength, historical significance.

• Cladded Exterior/Wood Interior windows- Strength, durability, historical significance, beauty, various color options, customizable. Some say ‘Best of both worlds”

Glass Options:

• Double paned- Insulated glass helps to reduce heat and cold loss.

• Triple paned- Another layer of glass to reduce thermal transfer and noise transmission.

• Low-E coatings- Metallic coatings offering reflective qualities, reducing heat transfer.

• Gas Fill- Argon gas & Krypton gas fill the space between the panes of glass slowing the movement of cool and warm air and improves thermal performance.
- **Code requirements and recommendations**: Safety glass regulations require particular glass sections to contain glass that will not break into large shards of glass. As named, it is for the SAFETY of those around the area if the glass is broken.

**Accessories and Options:**

- **Hardware types and color**: Locking mechanisms, colors like Bronze, Nickel, White & more.

- **Grill types**: Grilles between glass, Simulated Divided Lite, Interior only.

- **Screen types**: Fiberglass mesh, Tru-Scene Mesh, Aluminum mesh.

**Window Design & Function-ability types:**

- **Picture Windows**: Including shapes (Roundtops, Trapezoids, Octagons, etc...)

- **Casements/Awnings**
With the information you have read above, you will have a lot of information for your window professional. It is a competitive market for these products, so find a company and/or an individual you feel you can trust and will be comfortable working with through the entire process. A few things to consider when choosing a company:

- *Do they have a Showroom or do they only want to show you suitcase samples?*

- *How long have they been in business?*

- *Are they members in good standing with local organizations like the BBB and several Trade Organizations such as NAHB, BCA, NARI, etc...*

- *Do they install their windows using Sub-Contractors or Employees?*
- Do they service their own products?
- Will they consider partial jobs, one window at a time, if necessary?
- Do they offer financing?
- Again, do you trust them to produce the project you request?

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