

# Window Shopping tips: How to Choose Windows

According to recent JELD-WEN research, 67% of homeowners surveyed said that they need to replace their existing windows.

When it comes to windows, the choices are nearly endless. Because windows can make a significant impact on the overall style, comfort and efficiency of your home, it's important to consider these factors:

## 1: Material type

The most common materials used for windows are vinyl, wood, metal-clad wood and aluminum. To choose the material that will work the best, homeowners should consider the architectural style of their home along with energy efficiency needs, budget & maintenance requirements.

## 2: Energy efficiency

Window energy efficiency is achieved by a combination of factors. Wood & Vinyl reduce heat transfer & help insulate. Make Low-E glass a "must have". Low-E glass has special coatings designed to reflect infrared light, keeping heat inside in the winter & outside in the summer. It also blocks up to 95% of harmful UV rays that cause interior fading. Tri-pane glass can insulate much better than dual panes. Look for an ENERGY STAR label, and be sure it will meet the efficiency requirements for your particular region.

## 3: Style

Casement, awning, single-hung, double-hung and slider are the most common window styles available. Each style has its own unique attributes based on the application it will be used in. Windows are available in many shapes and sizes including radius, geometric & combination units. Many manufactures' also offer a wide array of window trims such as Brickmould, J-trim, U-channel and interior jambs extensions in both wood and vinyl.

## 4: Budget

In general, wood is more expensive than Vinyl. When it comes to budget, it's important to factor in long term value beyond the initial purchase price. Resale value is also a key consideration – beautiful, more efficient windows are a big selling feature. Energy efficiency & longer warranties offer measurable, annual cost savings. Choosing products that will perform reliably can save thousands of dollars on replacement and repair, as well as on cooling and heating expenses.

Come see the friendly, knowledgeable stall at Alpine Glass and start designing your dream now. Located at 9708 – 108 Street. Fort St. John, BC. 250-785-6409 or [www.alpinewindows.ca](http://www.alpinewindows.ca)