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# Spruce up windows while saving energy

BY BRIAN ALEXANDER  
SPECIAL WRITER

**W**indows are probably the most often overlooked feature of a home. After all, every house has windows and aren't all windows alike?

Not by a long shot. It may be tough to get all worked up about windows but windows have undergone something of a revolution in the last 20 years and are improving all the time.

Not only can replacing your old windows completely alter the interior and exterior look of your home, they also can offer major saving enhancements.

Perhaps your house was built before 1940. If you have double-hung windows, you may not be able to open them.

If you can, you may find them difficult to operate because the interior balances of the windows are two sandcast lead weights attached to the windows by a rope stretched over a pulley.

Many times, these old ropes have broken, making it impossible to keep a window open.

Your windows work fine? Good. Check out the window structure, especially its exterior. Old windows were made of wood and wood alone. Wood rots.

Wood also expands and contracts with heat and cold, leaving spaces between the window assembly and walls. That translates into loss of hot or cold air and higher utility bills.

Even if your old windows are in perfect order, consider the opportunities for adding more windows to bring light and air into your home or new design elements in rooms like bathrooms or bedrooms.

## New windows

These days, you can create bay windows, window walls, windows in the roof, a door of windows, a corner of windows, just about anything you can imagine.

Usually, new and replacement windows come in two types wood and aluminum. Both have their advantages but most new wood windows are better than aluminum. They look better, they insulate better and they just feel better.

Their main drawback when compared to aluminum windows is their cost. They are sometimes twice as expensive as aluminum. Wood windows from makers such as Andersen, Pella, Pozzi and Marvin come equipped with a variety of vinyl

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