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# Glassy look

## A window is a window is a window-- Or is it?

"People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones," they say.

Few people, actually, do either. If some architects, engineers and builders have their way, however, there will be little glass in homes for anyone to throw stones at or to look out of and enjoy the scenery.

Someone apparently uncovered a theory linking the number and size of windows in homes with excessive heat loss through glass areas.

The flaw in the theory, however, is the basic assumption that a window is a window is a window.

Many windows may look alike. But a closer inspection of the materials that go into the manufacture can be educational. Routine, metal-framed windows

without thermal barrier that are poorly weather-stripped can be a source of considerable heat loss both through the glass and from air infiltration.

Well-built, factory-engineered windows, on the other hand, are designed to help conserve energy. This is achieved by a combination of factors, including the weatherstripping and the material that is used in the frame and sash of windows.

Unlike metal, which readily conducts heat or cold, wood is a natural insulator. That's why it's used in the frame and sash of well-built windows.

Double glazing or separate storm sash guards against heat loss through the glass areas and sharply reduces messy condensation. Factory-supplied

weatherstripping assures snug closure against air infiltration.

Heat loss studies show that quality wood windows in a home enable its owner to double the size of the window area with little or no increase in the yearly cost of heating.

Well-designed windows serve energy conservation in other ways. A sufficient number of operating windows, for example, can be used for ventilation to capture cool breezes in the spring and fall, thus reducing the air conditioning

Ample window areas also admit plenty of natural light, limiting the need for artificial light.

Those who would sharply curtail the size and number of windows in a home also fail to consider their aesthetic qualities.

Quality wood windows in a variety of styles and sizes help create an atmosphere of individuality in the appearance of homes. And the views they provide give families a link with the outdoors.

## Most popular

Swimming has been declared America's most popular participant sport - again.

A survey conducted recently by the A. C. Nielsen Company found that there are, in fact, 103,000,000 swimmers in the U.S. The second most-popular participant sport, bicycling, has 75,000,000 adherents.



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