## Money is being lost out older windows

It's not surprising that Americans are beginning to become more energy efficient.

The American Council for an Energy Economy estimates that the average household apends more than \$1,000 per year to heat and cool their home and operate household appliances. This kind of expense during tough economic times can quickly catch a person's attention.

So what can people do to become more energy efficient?

"Replacing outdated windows and doors with energy efficient models will help retain heat in the winter and reflect beat in the summer," said Chris Allen, gener-

al sales manager for Pella Window and Door in West Bloom-field. "This will mean savings in energy and monthly energy bills. "Recent technologies have brought energy efficiency to a new level," Allen sald. "For instance, one recent development relating to windows is the low emissivity (low-E) coating.

"This clear coating changes the way a window reflects radiant heat into a room. High quality windows are available with low-E surface coatings," Allen said.

When shopping for energy effi-cient doors, a person may want to consider a wood entry door.



Curb costs: If your windows are outdated, you could be literally throw ing your money for energy bills right

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## Seeking the right sink

Before you begin your search for the perfect sink, Decorating magazine suggest you con-sider the following op-

sider the following op-tions:

Witreous china is probably the most common type of bath-room sink. Available in a variety of styles and colors, this mate-rial is easy to clean and hes a lustrous sur-face. It can, however, crack or chip when struck.

- struck.

  B Porcelainized or enameled cast-iron sinks are both durable and able to resist stains, scratches, chips and dents. They're also heavy and require a sturdy support system.
- Enameled steel does not, wear as well as porcelainized cast iron, but has the advantage of being light enough to move into place eas-ily.
- Stainless steel is also lighter than cast iron. It is durable and unaffected by house-hold chemicals, but tends to show spots from hard water and sonn.
- asap.

  If you like the look of a metal sink, you might also consider solid cast-brass models as well as vitreouschina styles with metallic finishes.
- tallic finishes.

  B Solid-surface materials sinks are an integral part of the counter surface, so they create a sleek, seamless effect. Some blend quartz and acrylic; other synthetics mimic granite and marble. All are stain and chipresistant, but are also more expensive than more expensive than other materials.
- Lavatory-styles a Lavatory-styles lit into three general categories: pedestal sinks, wall-hung sinks and sinks that rest in vanities. Pedestal and wall-hung sinks are good space savers in small baths.
- If you have the room, however, sinks designed for vanities are the most practical option. Self-rimming designed for vanutes are the most practical option. Solf-rimming sinks, for instance, feature a ridge that fits over the countertop to form a tight seal and help keep water from splashing onto the counter. Plush-mounted sinks are recessed into a vanity's counter-top with tight-fitting metal rims. Integral one-piece sink-and-countertop units are also available for vanities.

  Vanities are usually

Vanities are usually 31 to 34 inches high, but they're also available in lower and higher versions. For comfort, you may went to install a 36-inch-high vanity in a bath used only by adults. If you install two sinks in one vanity, allow 12 inches between them and 8 inches at each end.



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