

1. Target Keyword: 5 things to consider when replacing windows
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A window replacement project can significantly reduce the energy costs for a home as well as improve the indoor environment, provide a more comfortable space, and enhance general home appearance. However, it is important to take a window replacement project seriously, as the choices that get made during the project will be around for a number of years. There are 5 things to consider when replacing windows.

5 Things to Consider When Replacing Windows

1. **Appearance.** Even small window construction changes can significantly impact the aesthetic of a home. The color of a frame, the type of frame, and the glazing tint can all play a role in the overall appearance of both the windows and the home in general. Over time, the appearance of a window will deteriorate as the result of exposure to the elements. Sometimes preventative and routine maintenance can restore windows to their original appearance. In other instances, the restoration costs will nearly equal the cost of replacement windows. People who are considering new windows may want install a single window as a test run before installing an entire set.
2. **Energy efficiency.** For many people, the most important of the 5 things to consider when replacing windows is energy efficiency. Increasing the quantity of glazing, decreasing the air infiltration rate, and making use of heat-reflective coating all have a positive impact on the energy performance of a home.
3. **Fit.** As windows age, their components wear down and start to deteriorate. Some components of the windows shrink and become dry, which creates gaps that may let air into a home. As the components become looser, they let in more air. A window only has to have a small gap for air infiltration to become a major issue in a home.
4. **Frame.** There are a number of factors that can contribute to frame deterioration including physical damage, corrosion, rot, and weather. As a frame rots, increased quantities of water and air can enter a home. When nearly any aspect of a frame deteriorates past surface corrosion, a full window replacement is required.
5. **Glazing.** Finally, one of the 5 things to consider when replacing windows is glazing. Many people are not even aware of glazing on windows until they shop for replacements. Homes that feature a number of large windows can be difficult to cool, even during cooler seasons of the year. The glazings available today can take away up to 80 percent of the solar heat gain while letting almost 90 percent of the sun's visible light pass through the windows. It is important for people to think about the overall condition of their home's windows and their preferred performance characteristics when they select solar control options.

2. Target Keyword: Dangers of do-it-yourself gutter cleaning

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In today's tough economy, more people are looking for ways to save money. Costs are being cut around the home with DIY renovations and projects. People are also finding ways to lower their utility bills. Although this new sense of conservation can be great for your wallet, it is not always the best for your safety, specifically when it comes to cleaning the gutters. Your gutter system is designed to guide water down from the roof and away from your home. Leaves, twigs, and sometimes roofing material can clog your gutters resulting in possible water damage to your home's structure. Leaving your gutters dirty can cost you more money and headache in the long run. Do yourself a favor and have a professional come out and do the cleaning for you. Here are a few of the dangers of do-it-yourself gutter cleaning.

- Ladder Issues- Although climbing a ladder to clean your gutter may seem like a small task, many dangerous issues can arise. If you do not place the ladder securely, damage to the siding and/or gutters can occur. If the ground is uneven, this could also cause instability of the ladder. Contrary to popular belief, ladders need to be well maintained. If you are using an old ladder, this in itself could pose a serious threat to your safety.
- Electrical Wires- Oftentimes wires are affixed to the house or the roof. Coming in contact with such wires can be very dangerous. If you lose your balance, the wires may be the first thing you grab for stability, causing an electric shock. Additionally, there will be cost for the replacement of the wiring and possible medical expenses.
- Insects- Drainage gutters can be a breeding ground for wasp or hornet nests. These nests may not be visible from the ground. The last place you will want to find out you have a severe pest problem is 20 feet above ground. Stings and bites can be very uncomfortable, especially when there is nowhere to run but down. If you are allergic to certain insect stings, this can be a life threatening situation.
- Dangers of Heights- There are always risks when dealing with high altitudes. Even if you aren't afraid of heights, a bout of dizziness or nausea can strike at any time due to being so high above ground.

Why take the risk of cleaning your gutters yourself when you can hire a professional to do it for you. If you are located near Salem, MA, contact [A&A Services](#) to handle all your gutter cleaning needs.

3. Target Keyword: Windows and energy efficiency

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Although the most energy-efficient home wouldn't have any windows, windows give a room a feel of openness and let in natural light on a sunny day and gentle breezes in pleasant weather. Everyone would rather sacrifice a bit of efficiency for the benefits that windows bring to a home or building, but you can minimize lost energy by opting for energy efficient windows. By doing your research on windows and energy efficiency and shopping around, you can find windows for your home that will minimize negative effects on your home's insulation and energy efficiency.

Installing windows that don't let in too much outside air is especially important if you live in an area with a colder climate. It already costs you a considerable amount of money to keep your home warm in the winter, and if you're suspicious that your old windows are contributing to a rise in heating costs, it might save you in the long run to install more efficient, newer replacement windows. As time goes by, windows can develop gaps due to the expansion and contraction of sealants or due to the warping of the wood. Windows need to be replaced every so often to avoid a rise in energy costs because of such inefficiencies. Almost every time windows are replaced on a home, energy bills drop by as much as 20% due to the resulting reduction in outside air penetrating the home and inside air exiting.

If you are contemplating replacement windows and energy efficiency, you might want to have something known as a blower door test done in your home to determine where energy is escaping your home. A professional window installer can perform such a test by using a special fan that sucks air out of a home to determine how airtight the home is. This test helps professionals pinpoint exactly where air is escaping a home.

Some things to be aware of if you're interested in windows and energy efficiency are the ratings used by the construction industry and organizations such as the National Fenestration Rating Council to determine the energy efficiency of a window. Windows are rated in terms of their "U-factor," solar heat gain

coefficient, and air leakage. The U-factor represents how easily differences in temperature are transmitted through a window, and a low U-factor rating indicates a more efficient window. The solar heat gain coefficient deals specifically with heat from the sun being transferred through the window. Among window types, the casement window is one of the most energy efficient options due to its airtight design.

Lower your energy bills through airtight windows and energy efficiency to improve your home, live more sustainably, and save yourself money.

4. Target Keyword: Specs to consider when choosing replacement windows

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The right windows can make all the difference in your home – from heating and cooling efficiencies that result in significant energy savings, to aesthetic appeal and easy maintenance. What are the specs to consider when choosing replacement windows for your home?

What's your style?

Most homes look best with windows that largely match the original architectural vision put forth when the home was first built. While you may not be able to get an exact match to the original windows, you can probably get something close but with upgraded materials for a more modern look, better energy efficiency, as well as easy maintenance.

Where do you live?

This somewhat speaks to the characteristic above in regard to style, because one of the specs to consider when choosing replacement windows for your home is the climate you live in. It's worth noting that matching new windows to the previous style will likely play into that, since the original windows wouldn't have been chosen without taking climate into consideration. If you live in a climate that's blustery and cold during the winter, for example, you'll want to get double- or triple-paned glass. If you live in a climate that gets lots of sun and is generally hotter than "average," glass that reflects the sun's rays will keep you nice and cool – and again will reduce your energy costs.

How do you live?

Nobody wants to spend a lot of time maintaining their windows, of course, so regardless of your lifestyle, you probably want windows that are fiberglass, wood or vinyl. With little to no maintenance to worry about, this is one of the main specs to consider when choosing replacement windows – after which you won't have to think about them much at all. That said there are other things to consider, too.

For example, choosing replacement windows with built-in blinds or shades (placed between two separate panes of glass, the blinds themselves are not accessible manually) can help protect children and pets from getting tangled up in the cords or otherwise harming themselves. In addition, the blinds will stay protected from pet hair, children's mishaps, and so forth.

How much can you afford to spend?

Cost is the last consideration on the list in regard to specs to consider when choosing replacement windows for your home. Your cost will depend on a number of factors, but most important are the materials and construction. It's not going to save you much money if any – and will cause plenty of hassle – if you buy cheap windows that are going to need replacement in a few years. Choose the sturdiest material you can afford.

5. Target Keyword: 5 features to look for in clog-free gutters
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Since a well-built rain gutter system is able to protect your home from water damage, it's one of the most essential additions you should consider installing after building or buying a house. Although designing and installing efficient rain gutter systems is quite simple, some gutters have faults that prevent them from functioning properly. To help you get the best gutter system for your home, the following paragraphs explain the top 5 features to look for in clog-free gutters.

1. **Size and Profile:** The size and profile of a gutter are very important. Choosing a 6-inch instead of a 4-inch diameter gutter is worth the difference in price because it's less likely to clog. On the other side, a U-shaped gutter is one of the best choices because it can easily get cleaned by rain even when debris accumulates. To help your gutter system expel water and debris easily, you should complement it with 3-by-4-inch downspouts.

2. **Gutter Guards:** Another important point of the **5 features to look for in clog-free gutters** relates to gutter guards. Made of thin grates, gutter guards allow rain water to drain through the gutter system, while preventing debris from accumulating into gutters. Although the traditional gutter grates are very useful, the best option you can find today is the K-guard style, which delivers one-piece gutter-and-guard systems.
3. **Sectioned versus Seamless Gutters:** Sectioned gutters are made from multiple pieces assembled to each other. The place where two pieces of gutter connect provides an ideal location for debris to accumulate, causing the gutters to clog. Seamless gutters are made of one solid piece that prevents debris accumulation. If you intend to use seamless gutters, it's essential to know that only professionals can install them.
4. **Installation Method:** The 4th of the top **5 features to look for in clog-free gutters** is the installation method. Most contractors use hangers, brackets or straps to attach gutters to houses. If there are no rafters or fascia to attach the gutters to, your gutter system may fail to properly channel water and debris into the downspouts. The gutters that don't function well often get clogged.
5. **Gutter Accessories:** Using particular accessories, such as funnels and diverters, is necessary to make sure that your gutters remain clog free. For instance, if you have no room to install downspouts, you can use different funnels and diverters to drive water and debris away from your gutters.

By simply taking into account the aforementioned features to look for in clog-free gutters, you can build a reliable rain gutter system that is ready to guard your home against specific rain-related problems, which typically result in damage to the building and lawn.

6. Target Keyword: gutter installation
Page Title: GutterShutters

Many homeowners don't even think about gutter installation, but rain gutters are an important part of keeping your home dry and mold free. Here are just a few reasons why gutters are important, and why proper gutter installation is so important to good functionality:

- They keep water from dripping on cement walkways, thereby making your walkways last longer.
- They keep water from damaging the exterior of your home; without gutters, water would land on the ground near your home, splash on the exterior walls of your home, and cause water damage.
- They capture and distribute water that would otherwise cause erosion to the ground directly below your eaves, and could also damage landscaping.
- They keep water off your roof, thus extending the life of your roof and preventing unnecessary and expensive repairs.
- They keep water from seeping through interior walls and into the basement. This prevents water damage and mold growth, which can be expensive if not impossible to repair and extremely detrimental to your health.

Now that you know why having gutters is important, you'll need to determine which are best for you. The best are those you can simply have installed and then "ignore." Today, you can get gutters that are completely maintenance-free and never require cleaning, like the GutterShutter.

GutterShutter professional gutter installation will ensure that you have attractive, maintenance free gutters for years. The GutterShutter is:

- No-clog and seamless.
- Installed tightly against the fascia so rot does not occur.
- Uses brackets with a 20 year guarantee not to fall off.
- With brackets twice the normal size, and installation at every 2 feet instead of every 4 feet, sturdiness is guaranteed.

The GutterShutter is twice the size of the average gutter, meaning that "flush out" is guaranteed. Pitch is also adjusted slightly to ensure better drainage, and will handle walnut, Spears, maple, birch, pine or oak trees.

With 15 colors to choose from, colors "baked in" to the aluminum, GutterShutters' gutter installation will stay attractive and stylish as well as functional for at least 20 years. No rusting or unsightly gutters to replace.

Should you do gutter installation yourself?

If you are truly good handyman, you can certainly do your own gutter installation. However, if not, let a professional service do it.

A good service will give you a free in-home estimate so that there are no surprises with pricing. Having gutters professionally installed will also ensure that they have complete functionality for 20 years or longer, thus protecting your home from moisture and mold that may otherwise occur with no gutters, those that are of substandard quality, and/or gutters that are improperly installed. Save money over the long term and opt for GutterShutters' professional installation.