

BetterHomesTO

# WINDOWS

Heat gained or lost through inefficient windows can increase the energy used to heat and cool your home by 25 to 30 per cent. Several components make up an energy-efficient window and together, they work to prevent your heated or cooled air from escaping your home.

Energy-efficient windows have special coatings (known as low emissivity coatings, or “low-E glass”) and insulated frames and sashes which will reduce the cold transfer from outside and condensation on the glass. They have more glazing (panes of glass) for better exterior noise reduction and even more energy savings. In Toronto, you should have at least double-paned windows. Also, special inert gases between the glass panes rather than just air make for better insulation.



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## WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- A low U-value. The U-value is a measure of the window's insulation value. Look for windows in the range of 0.25 to 1.25, with 0.25 being the best.
- Buy windows certified for installation in Canada. In Canada, all windows should be at least double glazed – two panes of glass.
- Windows with more glazing (panes of glass) and low-E glass are the most efficient.
- Hinged windows (casements, awnings, hoppers, tilt-turns) are more air-tight than sliders.



## THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Purchase ENERGY STAR® certified windows.
- Windows that don't open are more energy-efficient, but floors with bedrooms require at least one window that opens for an emergency exit.
- The window frame affects a window's insulation value, strength, maintenance and longevity. Wood and fiberglass frames are the most efficient.
- Hire trained installers to ensure your windows and skylights will perform their best.
- Consider financing your home energy improvements through the City of Toronto's Home Energy Loan Program (HELP).
- Consider getting an EnerGuide Energy Efficiency Home Evaluation to help you understand how your home uses energy and identify all improvement opportunities.



## COST:

\$300 - \$700+ per window.

BetterHomesTO: Tips, tools & resources to improve the energy efficiency of your home. [BetterHomesTO.ca](https://www.betterhometo.ca)

