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Four Factors to Consider before Replacing Your Windows by Alejamuel Sultz

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You may have heard or read about of energy-efficient windows at some point while resting in your home in Worcester, Massachusetts. Energy efficient windows reduce your electricity costs because they regulate the heat inside your home. This is particularly helpful during the warm seasons.

If your home is old and has a similarly old architectural design, it may be time to replace your windows. Worcester is among the oldest cities in Massachusetts that features many fine examples of Victorian era architecture, and these windows may need replacement to make them energy efficient. Here are a few things you can consider before you have your windows replaced:

Type

There are currently four major windows materials -- wood, aluminum, fiberglass and vinyl -- each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Wood windows have beautiful designs but are high maintenance, aluminum windows are lightweight but can look very simple, fiberglass is durable but costly, and vinyl is low maintenance but can get stained and lose its appeal. There are also energy-efficient windows which are more expensive but can save on heating costs.

Cost

Window replacement can be an expensive project. However, your windows contribute about 30 to 50 percent of your homeâ€™s heating and cooling costs so you may have to prioritize this if the need arises. You can opt for the more costly fiberglass windows or the more affordable vinyl windows. Or you can also choose energy efficient windows which cost even more but can be worth their value later. There are federal and state tax incentives for using energy-efficient windows to compensate for their cost.

Design

If your home has an architectural design that uses Worcester windows, you may have second thoughts about windows replacement. But if energy efficiency is your major concern then you may have to do so. You need to choose a window consistent or at least compatible with your home design.

Installation

Most replacement windows Worcester MA residents choose for their homes have to be installed by windows contractors. Replacement includes removing the old one and replacing it with the new, and requires skill and expertise. Contractors can do the job better and can assure you of quality workmanship.

Always consider the window type, cost, design and installation of your homeâ€™s Worcester windows before starting your window replacement project. If you want energy-efficient windows, consult a professional in your area to help you decide. Read more about windows replacement from eHow.com and EzineArticles.com.

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