What the Window Numbers Say about the Ideal St. Louis Window Replacement

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Climate is an important thing to consider when choosing replacement windows, as they are not all made the same. Some windows can absorb heat for colder climates, while others reflect heat better for warmer climates. It is for this reason that windows in the market come with labels that define how suitable it is for your local weather conditions.

According to Energy Star, an international energy standard, St. Louis, Missouri belongs to the North-Central climate zone. It sits between two humid climate zones: humid continental and humid subtropical. This means that the city generally experiences hot summers and mild to cold winters. If you are living in St. Louis, you should choose a replacement window that is suitable in handling the heat and keeping your home cool for most of the year.

U-Factor: The U-factor of a window indicates the rate of heat loss, which means the ability of a window to keep heat inside the home. Energy Star recommends windows for St. Louis homes to have a U-factor of 0.32 or less.

The U-factor for a window generally ranges from 0.20 to 1.20, although some windows can go lower than the minimum. A lower U-factor means the window can maintain heat inside the home better.

SHGC: An acronym for Solar Heat Gain Coefficient, this number measures how much heat from sunlight a St Louis window replacement can block. Given the cityâ€™s hot climate for most of the year, Energy Star recommends windows with an SHGC of 0.40 or less. The scale for SHGC generally ranges from 0 to 1, with zero coefficient having the best properties in blocking heat from the sun. Keep in mind that a window can let sunlight in but still minimize the heat that comes along with it.

It is important to remember SHGC when choosing from window replacement St Louis has to offer. The heat in St. Louis can reach up to 90 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer. A window with a low SHGC works best in maintaining a cool house and would help prevent too much discomfort.

Refer to Energy Starâ€™s Climate Zone Map online at EnergyStar.gov to know what zone your hometown falls under. EfficientWindows.org and NFRC.org have some interesting information about what the stickers in a St Louis window replacement mean. Take note of these things and your home will feel neither a flash freezer nor a blast furnace all year round.

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