

# Selecting Energy-Efficient Windows

This playbook outlines the step-by-step process to choose energy-efficient windows. It aims to guide you through various criteria and considerations to enhance your home's comfort while reducing energy loss.

## Step 1: **Research Standards**

Investigate energy performance ratings for windows, such as U-factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) from reliable sources like the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC).

## Step 2: **Assess Needs**

Evaluate the climate conditions, your home's design, and orientation to determine the appropriate energy performance ratings needed for your windows.

## Step 3: **Select Materials**

Choose window frame materials that provide good insulation and support the overall energy efficiency, such as vinyl, wood, or fiberglass frames.

## Step 4: **Choose Glass**

Select the type of glass or glazing that adds to energy efficiency, like double or triple-pane glass with low-emissivity (Low-E) coatings and inert gas fillings.

## Step 5: **Check Certifications**

Look for certifications from recognized bodies such as ENERGY STAR or NFRC, which indicate that the windows meet certain performance standards.

## Step 6: **Compare Options**

Compare different window models and brands based on their energy performance ratings, materials, aesthetics, and warranty.

## Step 7: **Calculate ROI**

Estimate the return on investment by considering the potential energy savings against the cost of the new windows, including installation.

## Step 8: **Professional Consultation**

Consult with a certified energy auditor or window installation professional to get personalized advice tailored to your home and needs.

## Step 9: **Finalize Decision**

Make your final window selection based on the gathered information, consultations, and energy efficiency goals.

## Step 10: **Arrange Installation**

Schedule the installation with a qualified professional, ensuring that the windows are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions for optimal performance.

# **General Notes**

## **Maintenance Tips**

Consider the maintenance requirements of the windows selected to ensure long-term performance and energy efficiency.

## **Incentives**

Research any available tax credits, rebates, or incentives for installing energy-efficient windows in your area.

## **Local Codes**

Verify that the chosen windows comply with local building codes and regulations before making a purchase.