

# TO REPLACE YOUR WINDOWS

If you want to change the aesthetic of your home, new windows are a great option. But there are other important reasons to replace your windows. So how do you know when it's really time to replace your older windows with newer, more energy efficient, safer and more functional windows? Here are the top 5 signs that your windows need to be replaced.







#### 1 » DRAFTY WINDOWS

If the wind blows outside, do your curtains puff out even when the window is closed? If you can feel a draft coming from your windows, it's definitely time to replace them. You'll not only want to replace drafty windows for your own comfort, you'll also want to replace them for the sake of your utility bill. Nobody wants to pay to air condition the exterior of their home.

#### 2 » DAMAGED FRAMES

Our humid, coastal location is tough on aluminum window frames. If you notice areas on your frames that are pitted, corroded or discolored, that is a sign of water damage (both from humidity and from the chloride ions in seawater). This type of damage is almost always beyond repair and will require replacement windows.

### 3 » DAMAGED GLASS

Are your window panes cracked or chipped? Is there condensation or fog buildup between the panes? These are hallmark signs that the seal around your window is failing and allowing outside air and moisture in between the layers of glass and into your home. This also indicates that any energy efficient gas between your window panes is leaking out or is already completely gone.

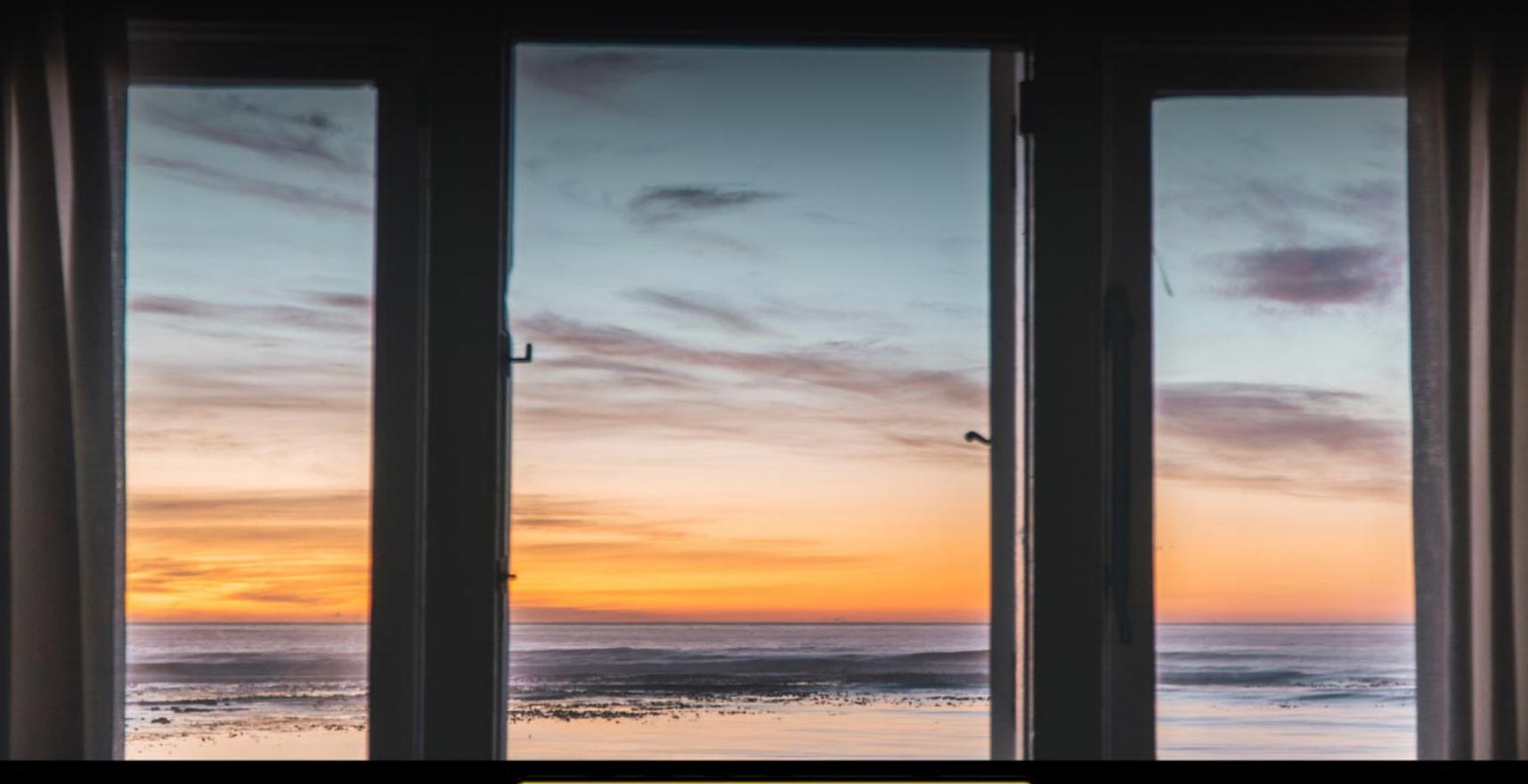
## 4 » DIFFICULTY OPENING, CLOSING, LOCKING

Is opening or closing your windows a struggle? Do you have to wrestle with the lock to get it to work? Anything from poor installation to rusting or rotting frames can cause windows to shift and become difficult to operate. If they don't function properly, they also likely do not seal completely and it's time to replace them.

#### 5 » HIGHER UTILITY BILLS

If the integrity of your window panes, frames or energy efficiency features are compromised, you are most definitely paying for it - literally. Your utility bills are higher than they should be. In addition, your HVAC system is working harder than necessary to compensate; taxing the heater or A/C like this over time will cause it to wear out much sooner than it otherwise would.

If you're not sure whether your windows officially need replacing or not, hopefully this list will help you decide. Modern windows are amazingly energy efficient, strong, safe and beautiful. Replacing your windows will not only immediately increase your home's value but will start saving you on utility costs each month as well as decrease the load on your HVAC system. There really is no downside to investing in new windows for your home.





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