



Selecting the Best Type of Replacement Window for Your Home

So you've decided to replace your rotted, leaky windows. That decision was relatively easy considering new windows provide returns through energy cost savings and even greater returns in an increased home value. You've made a wise decision.

With the range of replacement window options available, however, your decisions have just begun. Do you want to replace the whole window? What about the interior or exterior trim? Do you need to replace only the sash -- the glass and its casing -- rather than the entire frame? Are you doing the work yourself or will you hire a contractor to help? Do you want to buy the windows from the same place that will install them? And then there are the multitude of options and features on windows to consider.

"With the replacement window models available today," said Jeff Kibler, brand manager for Peachtree Doors and Windows, "homeowners can replace as little or as much as they'd like -- from just the glass or sash to the entire window and exterior trim. The various options can take the project from a relatively easy do-it-yourself task to a full-scale, contractor-level project."

Accurate Measurements

Measuring for replacement windows is one of the most critical parts of the project. Very few homes have off-the-shelf-size windows but instead require windows sized to match their existing window openings. A measurement off by only an inch could mean the replacement part may not fit the window frame. In the case of a full replacement window, an inaccurate measurement may result in the need to cut into interior sheetrock and exterior siding in order to accommodate the window. Always double check your measurements or have another person verify your measurements.

Sash Kits

Double hung windows are the easiest windows to update. With a sash replacement kit, homeowners can replace just the operable part of the window by inserting new sash into an existing window frame and jamb. In about an hour per window, you can have new double-hung windows that operate effortlessly, stay open without ugly props, and tilt in for easy cleaning. Many sash kits include features of today's new construction windows such as smooth operating balance systems, high performance glass, and decorative grilles. You can also choose the material from which you'd like your new sash: all vinyl, vinyl exterior/wood interior, primed wood and aluminum-clad wood. Easy-to-follow instructions make replacing a sash a manageable do-it-yourself project.

Pocket Windows

If you have rotten jambs in your windows, pocket replacement windows can update the look and performance of your windows. These windows fit into the existing window frame, leaving interior and exterior trim intact. Do-it-yourselfers can find pocket windows

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in a variety of materials in tilt-in single and double hung, casement and awning, single sliding, and picture window styles.

Peachtree's 700 Series extruded aluminum-clad replacement windows can improve a home's energy performance and interior and exterior design with its many options. Because it was designed for replacement situations, you'll find fewer installation hassles and less disturbance to your home's siding, walls or existing interior and exterior trim than if you used a full replacement window.

Kibler said, "The 700 Series replacement windows have built-in features and options to save remodelers and window installers time – things like three sill angles and exterior accessories to remedy gaps between the new window and the existing frame. Each window is also shipped with the shims, color-coordinated adhesive and screws needed for installation. No more last-minute trips to the store to keep you from finishing the project."

Full Replacement

There are advantages to replacing an entire window. Perhaps you prefer casement windows and your home has all double-hung units. Maybe the frames on your windows have serious rot. Or, you want to replace your wood windows with a lower maintenance alternative like vinyl or aluminum clad wood. These situations call for a more complete replacement choice, which means most homeowners will need a professional contractor or window installation firm to help complete the project.

New construction windows can be adapted for retrofit applications by simply ordering the windows without the nailing fin that aids in quick and secure installations where siding is not yet present. Most windows for full tear-out situations, including Peachtree's 700 Series for new construction, are sized in 1/8" increments to accommodate whatever your opening.

The replacement window option you choose will depend on the extent to which your current windows are damaged or rotted. Sash replacement kits or pocket windows are sufficient in some cases; others require a more complete replacement window. The decisions are many, the returns considerable.

If you'd like free instructions on how to measure for replacement sash, contact Peachtree at (800) 732-2499.

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