ENERGY STAR® Certified Windows

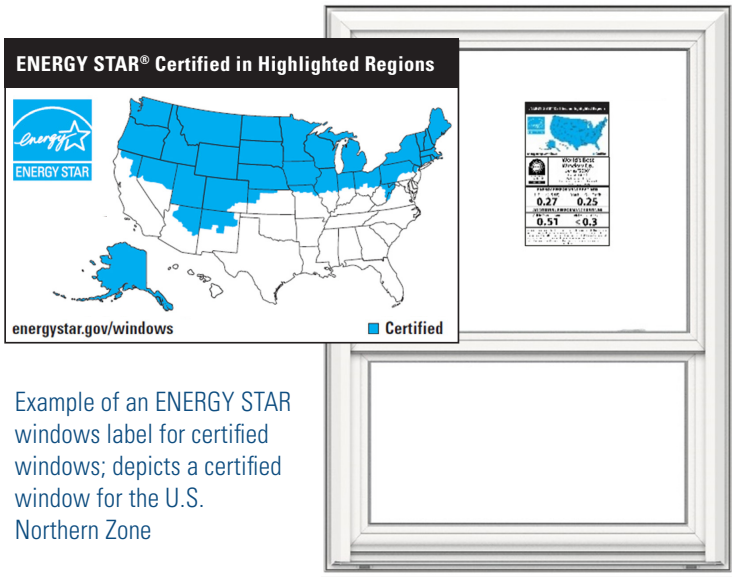
Windows in a home are very important. They let in daylight, allow us to see the world, and let in fresh air on a nice day. However, while windows represent about 8% of the surface area of home, they typically account for almost half of the heat lost or gained.

Improving the performance of the windows in your home can save you energy and money and has several other benefits. Windows that earn the ENERGY STAR are better than basic building code products and have performance levels designed to work well in your climate—and they also come in a wide variety of styles, colors, and frame types. Look for the ENERGY STAR label and climate zone map when ordering new windows from a builder, dealer, or contractor to ensure that it is ENERGY STAR certified and provides more comfort and energy savings.

Did you know?

You could save an average of about 13% annually on your energy costs by replacing poor performing windows with ENERGY STAR certified models.

These savings are based on a national average and will vary based on your climate.



Example of an ENERGY STAR windows label for certified windows; depicts a certified window for the U.S. Northern Zone

When to Replace Windows

Windows have many uses in your home from adding light to making your home more visually appealing. However, old, poorly made, drafty, or degraded windows can waste lots of energy and leave you very uncomfortable when weather is the most extreme. Here are a few big indicators that it may be time to replace your windows.

- **Single-pane windows (windows with only one layer of glass) –** These windows are poor performers at insulating against cold weather and typically do not have coatings to block solar heat in the summer, increasing air conditioning costs. Single-pane windows are big energy wasters.
- **Windows with air leaks or drafts and degraded sills and sashes –** These windows also waste energy and are very uncomfortable to sit next to when it is cold and windy out. Degraded windows can also leak water into your walls causing more problems and allow insects and other pests to enter your home.
- **Windows that do not open or are painted shut –** Windows that do not open prevent you from enjoying fresh air on a nice day or a cool evening after a hot day which can reduce energy costs. Windows that do not open are also hard to clean and maintain.

ENERGY STAR® is the simple choice for energy efficiency. For more than 30 years, EPA's ENERGY STAR program has been America's resource for saving energy and protecting the environment. Learn more at energystar.gov/windows.

EPA

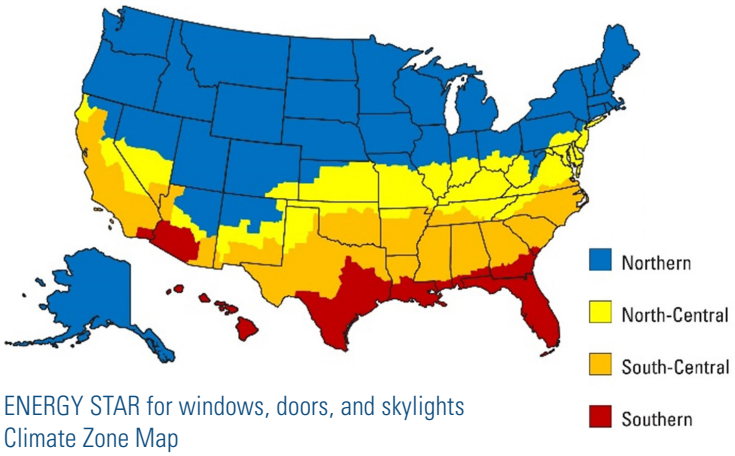
How to Select the Right Windows

If you are considering buying new windows, it is important to choose ones that make sense for your climate. While some windows are better at keeping you warm in the winter, others help reduce air conditioning costs in the summer. Some windows balance heat and cold for climates in the middle of the country. Here are some parameters to consider.

- **U-factor** – A measure of the insulating power of a window. The lower the number the more the window will insulate.
- **SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient)** – A measure of how much solar heat from sunlight is blocked by the window. The lower the number the more heat is blocked.

ENERGY STAR windows are designed to be efficient for where you live and can be separated by four climate zones.

- **The Northern Zone** criteria are focused on better insulation to save on heating costs.
- **The Southern Zone** criteria are focused on blocking solar heat coming through the glass to save on air conditioning costs.
- In the **Central Zones** of the country, the criteria are balanced between insulating and heat blocking.



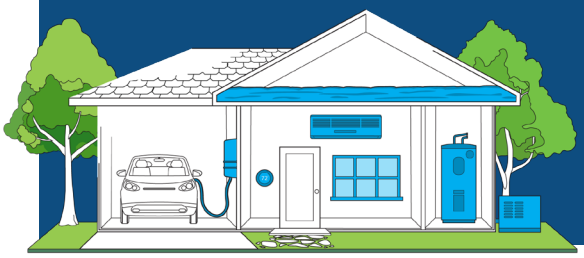
ENERGY STAR for windows, doors, and skylights Climate Zone Map

Incentives to Help You Save

Energy-saving home upgrades are now more affordable than ever. With new federal, state and local incentives, you can save thousands of dollars and enjoy a more comfortable, energy-efficient home, today.

Rebates: Rebates for windows may be available through your local utility company. Check the web site of your local utility or visit the ENERGY STAR Home Savings Tool and enter your zip code to see what incentives are available in your area (www.energystar.gov/homesavings). You can also check with your contractor to see if they know of incentives or rebates in your area.

Federal Tax Credits: There are currently federal tax credits for the cost of purchasing ENERGY STAR windows, and skylights for 30% of the cost up to $600. Exterior windows or skylights must meet the **ENERGY STAR Most Efficient** criteria. This tax credit is available through December 31, 2025. Learn more about this tax credit at www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/windows_skylights.



INTRODUCING ENERGY STAR HOME UPGRADE

Windows are one of six high-impact, energy efficiency improvements for your home that are designed to work together to deliver significant energy and cost savings. Count on ENERGY STAR to help you transition from fossil fuels to a cleaner, healthier, and more comfortable home.

energystar.gov/homeupgrade