



Glossary of Industry Terms

Air Chambers

Small honeycomb spaces within the sash and frame extrusions that help to insulate and strengthen the window.

Air Infiltration

The amount of air leaking in and out of a building through cracks in walls, windows and doors.

Annealed Glass

A standard sheet of plate glass (not tempered).

Argon

A gas that is heavier than air and can be used to fill the airspace of an insulated glass unit. Argon is a safe, colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic gas, which is six times denser than air. Argon increases the insulating value of an insulated glass unit as well as improves sound insulation.

Awning Window

A window that is hinged at the top, and cranks from the bottom.

Balance (spiral type, coil type or block and tackle type)

The system in the side jambs of a single or double-hung window that helps open and support the weight of the sash.

Balance Winding Tool

Used to adjust the tension of the spiral balance.

Bay Window

A bay window is made up of three or more windows. The side or flanker units project out from the building at 30, 45, or 90-degree angles. The center is parallel with the building wall and is made up of one or more windows. All of the units can be stationary, operating, or any combination of the two. Typically the center section is stationary, while the side units are operating.

Beveled Exterior

An extension of the vinyl frame that adds an aesthetically pleasing dimension to the exterior of the window.

Beveled/Grooved Glass

This type glass is furnished in (4) four patterns: Double Prairie, Colonial, Diamond and Florentine. The groove is ground into the glass 3/8" wide, polished and located on the #3 surface of insulated glass panel.

Block

Setting a piece of neoprene silicone, or other suitable material used to position the glass in the frame.

Bow Window

A series of four or more adjoining window units, commonly five in number, projecting 10-20 degrees from the wall of a building, forming a circular arch appearance.

**Brick Mould**

Exterior casing around a window or door. Covers the gap between the frame and masonry opening. In some cases, siding is installed up to the edge of the brick mould.

Buck Frame

Wood head, seat and jambs designed to form a case to contain the window to fit in the rough opening, used on bay and bow windows.

Buck Size

This is the exact window size not including the fin.

Butterfly Clip

This is a “w” shaped clip with jamb adjustment screw located at the middle of both jambs of some replacement models. The screws in a clockwise direction will cause the jamb middles to pull toward the center of the window.

Butyl

A material used to seal glass to the spacer that acts as a sealant to form a dead air space.

Casement Window

A window unit in which the single sash that opens outward to the left or right.

Casing

Inside casing is a flat, decorative moulding that covers the inside edge of the jambs and the rough openings between the window unit and the wall. Outside casing (or brick mould), serves the same purpose.

Caulking

A compound for filling joints to prevent leakage of water and air. Caulking is used where leakage and/or movement may occur.

Clear Glass

Standard Transparent.

Circle Top

A generic term referring to any of a variety of window units having a curved top frame member often used over another window or door opening.

Condensation

The formation of water vapor from the air on any cold surface whose temperature is below the dew point.

Colonial Arch

Special shape window unit that has a half round radius head.

Condensation

When water vapor, which is present in all but the driest air, comes in contact with a surface that is below what is called “dew point temperature”, the vapor becomes liquid and is called condensation. An example is as follows: condensation forms on a glass of ice water since the surface of the glass is down to the dew point temperature of the inside air.

Cottage Window

A double hung or single hung window with a larger proportioned top sash.

**Design Pressure**

The pressure a product is designed to withstand. This value is a measure of a product's capacity to withstand the forces of wind loading, in both positive and negative directions, while it is closed and locked.

Dew Point

The temperature at which condensation occurs.

Divided Lite

A window opening divided into smaller sections by a grid system on the interior or exterior of the glass, between the glass panes, or any combination of these three.

Double Glazing

Two panes of glass separated by an air space to form a glass panel that increases energy efficiency and provides other performance benefits.

Double Hung Window

A window unit that has two operable sashes which move vertically in the frame.

Dry Wall Window

A single hung window whose top fixed glass is shipped non-glazed and will be glazed after materials are passed through.

Drip Cap

A molding to divert water from the top of a window unit so that water moves beyond the outside of the frame.

Egress Window

A window large enough, as defined by local building codes, for exit or entry in case of an emergency. Typically required in bedrooms.

ENERGY STAR®

A government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through the use of high-efficiency products. ENERGY STAR® qualifying products, such as windows and doors, mean these items use less energy, save money and help protect the environment in the specified region.

Extrusion

A form produced by forcing material through a die.

Fenestration

An architectural term referring to the arrangement of windows and doors in a wall.

Fixed

Refers to a window that is non-venting or non-operable.

Flashing

A metal or plastic strip attached to the outside of the head or side jambs to provide a weather barrier, resisting leakage between the frame and the wall.

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Frame

The combination of head, jambs, and sill to form a precise opening in which a window sash or door panel fits.

Fusion Welded

Refers to frames and sash attached together with intense heat.

Garden Window

A window that projects out from the side of the structure and can be used as a greenhouse for plants. It has a slanted glass roof that allows heat and light from the sun to enter.

Geometric Window

Specialty windows of various shapes including: rectangles, triangles, trapezoids, octagons, pentagons, half-rounds, quarter rounds, full rounds sectors and ellipses.

Glazing

The process of sealing the glass to a sash or frame.

Glazing Bead

A removable decorative trim around the glass.

Grille

A decorative grid on the interior or exterior of the glass, between the glass panes, or in any combination of these locations that divides a window opening into smaller openings to create simulated divided lite or true divided lite. Grilles may or may not be removable.

Head

The main horizontal member forming the top of the window or doorframe.

Horizontal Sliding Window

Two or more sash that slide horizontally past each other; one or more of the sash may be fixed or inoperative or each sash may operate.

Infiltration

Air that is able to flow through cracks and other spaces around the window and at the meeting rail.

Insulated Glass (IG)

A combination of two or more panes of glass with hermetically sealed air space between the panes of glass. This space may or may not be filled with an inert gas, such as argon.

J-Channel

"J" Configuration designed into window frame exterior for the primary purpose of receiving siding.

Jamb

The main vertical members forming the sides of a window or doorframe.

Lift Rail Handle

Handle or grip installed on the sash of a window to make it easier to raise or lower the sash.

Lite

A unit of glass.

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Low E (Emissivity) Glass

Glass treated with a thin transparent coating of metal oxide and silver. Allows natural light and short-wave heat energy to freely penetrate glass during the winter while reflecting long-wave heat energy back outside during the summer months. Keeps your home cool in the summer and warm in the winter. It reduces the penetration of ultraviolet rays to minimize fading of carpet and draperies.

Mainframe

The head, sill, and jamb make up the mainframe. It holds the sashes.

Meeting Rail

The point at which the horizontal sections of the top and bottom sash meet. On sliders, the meeting rail is vertical.

Moulding

A strip of wood, usually shaped to a curved profile, used to accent and emphasize the ornamentation of a structure and to conceal surface or angle joints.

Mulled Unit

Two or more window units structurally joined together.

Mullion

A metal or vinyl extrusion used to structurally join two or more windows.

Muntin

The pieces of decorative grid that help divide a window opening into smaller sections. Also called a grille.

Muntin Bar

See muntin.

Nailing Fin

Used to secure the window into a rough opening.

Obscure/Translucent Glass

A frosted or textured glass that is difficult to see through.

Pane

A framed sheet of glass within a window or doorframe

Panel

Usually refers to the separate panel or panels in a doorframe. A panel may be operable or stationary.

Picture Window

A fixed window that has no moveable sash.

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Pitch

The pitch of a roof is the degree of the inclination upward from horizontal or flat. It may be expressed in degrees or as the ratio of the number of inches it rises in each 12 inches of horizontal span: 4/12 means the roof rises four inches for every foot of horizontal span.

Quad

A group of windows mullied in combination of fours.

R-Value

Resistance to thermal transfer or heat flow. Higher R-value numbers indicate greater insulating value. It is the inverse of the U-Value ($R=1/U$).

Rail

The horizontal top and bottom members of a window sash or door panel.

Replacement Window

A window designed to fit into an existing window opening.

Rough Opening

The framed opening in a wall into which a window or door unit is to be installed.

Sash

A single assembly of stiles and rails made into a frame for holding the glass in a window.

Sash Balance

A system of cords, and/or springs that assist in raising a sash and keep the sash in any placed position by counter balancing the weight of the sash.

Sash Lock

Generally, a cam-action type lock applied to the rails of the sliding window to pull the checkrails tightly together or to seal the sash tightly to the frame, both for security and weather tightness.

Sash Stop

An extrusion molding generally about 2" long that covers the joint between window sash and the jamb that stops the operable sash at its maximum opening.

Shims

Wood, plastic or composite wedges used to secure the window or door unit in the rough or masonry opening in a square, level and plumb position during and after installation.

Sidelight

Tall, narrow, fixed or operating sash on either or both sides of a door to light an entryway or vestibule.

Sill

The main horizontal member forming the bottom of the frame of a window or door.

Simulated Divided Light

A method of constructing windows in which muntins are affixed to the inside and outside of a panel of insulating glass to simulate the look of true divided light.

**Single Glazing**

Use of single panes of glass in a window. Not as energy-efficient as insulated glass.

Single Hung Window

Window with a fixed top sash and an operating bottom sash.

Tempered Glass

Glass that is treated with heat in its manufacturing, creating a product that can withstand abnormal force or pressure on its surface, and which does not break into sharp pieces; code requires tempered glass in all doors (including patio doors) and in windows that are located near doors, bathtubs, or showers.

Tilt Window

A window designed in such a way that the sashes tilt inward for easy cleaning of the outside of the glass.

Transom

A small window that fits over the top of a door or window, primarily for additional light and aesthetic value.

Triple

A group of windows mullied in combination of threes.

Twin

A group of windows mullied in combinations of twos.

U-Value (U-Factor)

The rate of heat transfer through a window or door. The lower the U-value, the better the insulating properties of the unit or glazing system.

Weather-strip

Variouly shaped metal, vinyl, plastic or fiber strips that fit tightly against the window or doorframe to resist air infiltration through cracks.

Weep hole

Small holes along the bottom edge of a window or door unit that allows any trapped water to escape outdoors.

Wind load

Force extended on a surface by moving air.

Wood Surround

Wood extensions attached to interior face of window units (furnished in (2) depths for 4 9/16 and 6 9/16 wall depths).