

Renovators Ltd.

A quarterly newsletter building industry knowledge.

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You Can See Clearly Now Shedding light on new-window options

by Michele Dawson

With winter around the corner, you may soon be experiencing leaking or drafty windows. Maybe it's time to replace those old single-pane windows. Or maybe the winter blahs have taken hold and you're ready for a new look. Replacing your windows can help you save on your energy bill, provide a stylish new look to your home, and can be a strong lure when it comes time to sell.

New Technologies

Remodeler Magazine says that changes in technology, including alterations designed to increase energy efficiency and convenience features such as tilt-out hardware, can make recently installed windows a prime selling

point for prospective buyers. The magazine's 2002 Cost vs. Value Report says an upscale window replacement project (replacing 10 existing 3-by-5-foot double-hung windows with double-glazed divided-light windows with interior finish of alder or cherry and exterior finish of copper or aluminum cladding) cost a national average of \$15,502 installed and yielded a slightly higher return of 77 percent over replacement windows at a mid-range price point.

The mid-range job (replacing 10 existing 3-by-5-foot double-hung windows with vinyl-clad double-glazed replacement windows and not disturbing existing interior or exterior trim) had a national average cost of \$9,424 and the cost was recouped at 74 percent.

Money Savers

By using energy efficient replacement windows, you can reduce heating and cooling costs as well as light and heat transfer.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program, the average household spends more than 40 percent of its annual energy budget on heating and cooling costs. You can save 15 percent of that with Energy Star qualified windows.

The most harmful sunlight rays are ultraviolet (UV), which are the most energetic and most likely to break chemical bonds, leading to fading and degradation of materials with which the light comes in contact, according to the Efficient Windows

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Collaborative, a group that manufactures and promotes energy-efficient windows.

All Energy Star windows are labeled by the National Fenestration Rating Council, a non-profit, public/private organization created by the window, door and skylight industry and comprised of manufacturers, suppliers, builders, architects and designers, specifiers, code officials, utilities and

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In the News

Renovators Ltd. is featured on the Saturday morning TV show "Remodelers Showcase" on Fox-6. Remodelers Showcase was developed to bring you the most current remodeling news and advice for your home remodeling projects. This exciting new idea is the remodeling industry's first ever local network TV show and website. Don't miss **Renovators Ltd** at 10:30 Saturday mornings on Fox-6 or visit the website at www.remodelersshowcase.com/pages/c remodel.pages/renovators.html

Duston Sieglaff has successfully completed the NARI "Certified Lead Carpenter" program. He joins Rick Ripple and Tony Rink as a Nationally Certified Remodeling Professionals.

Renovators Ltd. is proud to announce the addition of three talented team members:

Clayton O'Connor comes to Renovators Ltd with a degree in Architectural Design from Northcentral Technical College, Wausau, WI. Clayton will be involved in research, support, and design. He will also be taking on responsibilities in sales and estimating in the near future.

Beth Schwister joins our team as the Administrative Support for the Renovators Ltd. office. In this role, she will assist in proposals and managing many office functions. Beth has work experience in business management, and as a painter with the painters and drywallers local union.

Beth plans to get married in May of 2004.

Gary Elkins has joined the Renovators Ltd. team as a Carpenter. Gary has 20 years experience in the building trades. In addition, he is skilled in masonry and carpentry.

Gary has been married for 12 years and has four children and one grandchild.



Windows

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government agencies. The NFRC provides unbiased energy performance ratings on window, door and skylight products.

The NFRC suggests looking for the following when choosing replacement windows:

- U-factor, or how well a window keeps heat inside a building. The lower the U-Factor, the greater a window resists heat transfer. A good U-Factor to look for is 0.35 or lower.
- Solar heat gain co-efficient (SHGC), or a window's ability to block warming caused by sunlight. The lower an SHGC number, the less UV rays that cause heat gain are coming through a window. Look for an SHGC number of 0.40 or lower.
- Visible transmittance (VT), or how much light gets through a product. A VT number is a direct percentage of available light coming through a window - the higher, the more light coming through. A good percentage is about 55 percent.
- Air leakage, or heat loss and gain by infiltration through cracks in the window assembly.
- Low-E coatings, a microscopically thin, virtually invisible metal or metallic oxide

layer deposited on the glass during manufacturing. Low-E coatings reduce heat transfer through the glass, and can reduce UV rays that cause heat gain by up to 75 percent and reduce fading of interior furnishings.

Style and Function

And of course windows offer style as well as function. Design options from manufacturers include: Pella's integrated crank that features a fold-away handle for casement windows; KML by Andersen architectural windows in radius-top casements and double-hungs; and Andersen Art Glass in 11 original patterns including Frank Lloyd Wright series designs.

Window manufacturer Owens Corning suggests choosing a window style that complements your home's current window system. And keep in mind that the windows you select express your personality and can give your home a great new look.

New windows are a feature of your home you're sure to enjoy. And with products like Energy Star windows, you'll save money now by reducing heating and cooling costs, and in the future by using the windows as a selling point when you're home's on the market.

Delightful dining in a kitchen made to order



“When the Bartels approached us with the desire to **increase** the size of **their kitchen and dinette**, we knew this would be a **special project!**”

– Renovators Ltd

When the Bartels approached us with the desire to increase the size of their kitchen and dinette, we knew this would be a special project. They needed extra room to accommodate their growing family and for the frequent entertaining they enjoyed. Their existing three bedroom ranch home was only 885 square feet. This would not meet their needs without remodeling to increase the square footage of the home.

We proposed an addition with a vaulted ceiling, sixteen-foot wide by fourteen-foot deep, off the backside of the home where the existing dinette and kitchen were located. The Bartel’s rear yard offered a picturesque backdrop for the new addition and required careful placement of the new kitchen and dinette to take full advantage of the park-like setting.

The kitchen layout provides a simple “L” shaped design with easy traffic flow and a centrally placed island with a gas down-draft range. Counter tops are Corian and includes an integral undermount Corian sink.

We placed the kitchen in the new addition, maximizing the created space and added island seating. The sink placement allows the family a view of the rear yard. The kitchen and island seating area also allows family and friends a lovely view out the patio door. The patio door provides easy access to a new multi-tiered entry deck off the south side of the house giving the family additional outdoor dining and entertaining space during three seasons of the year.

The new dinette area, now located where the original kitchen and dinette were, includes a buffet style arrangement of

cabinetry with glass doors and storage cabinets, located between the existing living room and the new dinette.

The Corian-covered buffet provides a pass-through between the living room and dinette, allowing family and friends in the living room to easily speak to those in the kitchen preparing food.

In keeping with the warmth of the kitchen, the Bartels decided to use Hickory hardwood flooring stained to match the Hickory-colored kitchen and dinette cabinetry.

The Bartels have been thrilled with their new kitchen addition and have enjoyed many compliments from family and friends. It truly has been a special project.

Home Improvement Tips

Start saving energy and money ...

- Turn down your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. You can save even more if you turn off your water heater while on vacation.
- Change your energy habits by turning off lights, computers and entertainment devices when not in use.
- Set thermostats to 68 degrees Fahrenheit for winter heating and 78 degrees Fahrenheit for summer cooling. Better yet, install a programmable or setback thermostat for less than \$100 and do it automatically.
- Switch to the "energy-saver" settings on your washing machine, clothes dryer and dishwasher.
- Check and clean you refrigerator's condenser coils once a year.
- Repair those dripping hot water faucets that send money down the drain 24 hours a day.
- Unplug that second refrigerator in the garage or basement. Older refrigerators are very inefficient and can easily cost you \$125 - \$150 a year in electricity bills.
- Install low-flow showerheads and cut your hot water consumption for showering by 30 to 40 percent.

KUDOS to you!

We take pride in the quality work and attention to detail we provide for you. Nothing shows us that you value this more than when you share our name with your family and friends. We want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation.

- **Arlo and Nancy Coplan** thank you for referring **Ray and Marilyn Hauswirth** and **Richard and Shirley Minga**.
- **Celeste Lesch** thank you for referring **Gail Marquart** and **Steve Wolniakowski**.
- **John Ertl** thank you for referring **John and Elizabeth Drew**.
- **Sue Pickering** thank you for referring **Sara Scullen**.

This newsletter is a forum to learn about new techniques, industry standards, methods and individual stories. If you have ideas, articles, photos, questions or a subject you would like to see published, for consideration please contact us at our office:

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*A quarterly newsletter to help
inform our customers and build
awareness and knowledge in the
remodeling industry.
We appreciate your business!*

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