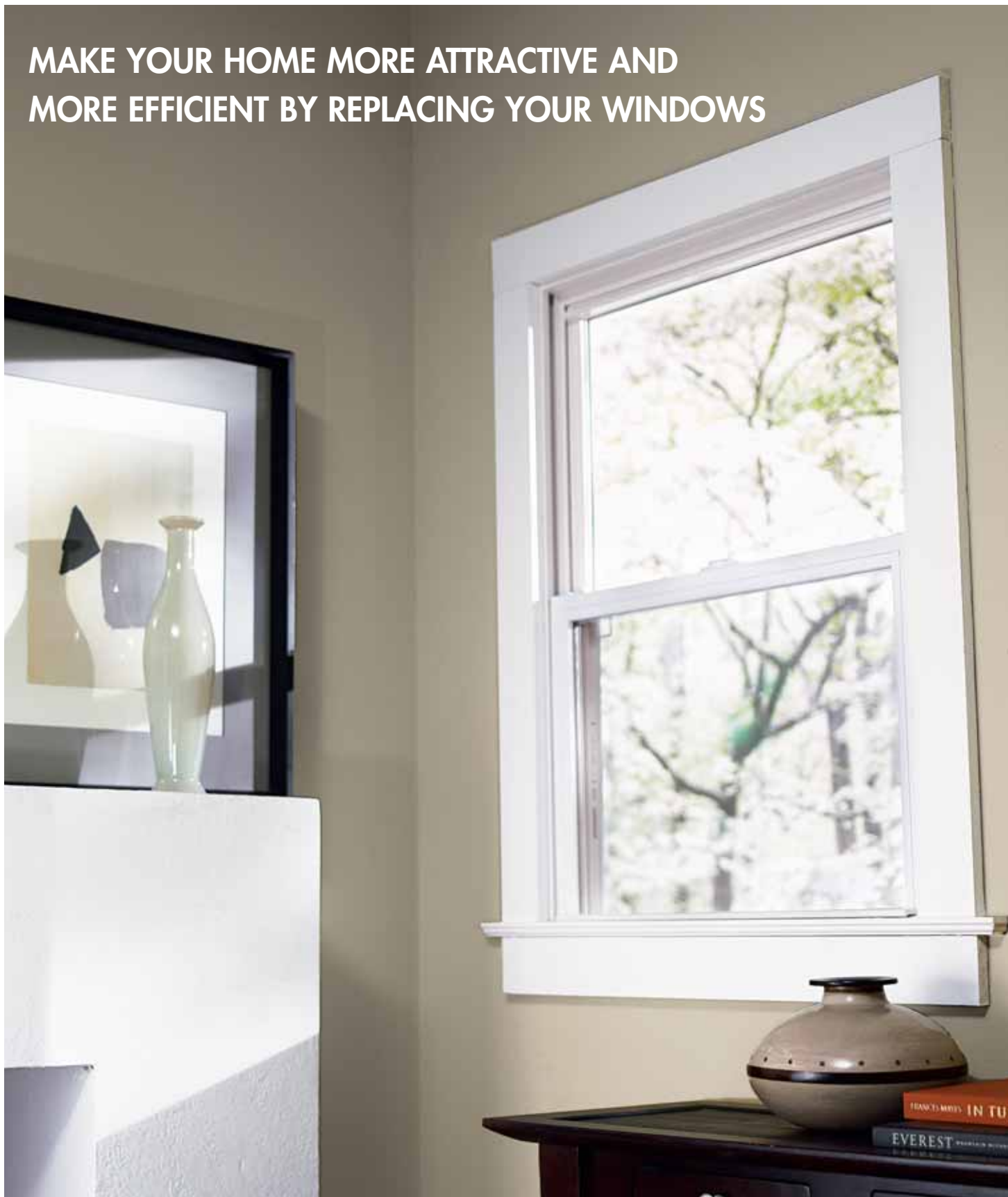




LEARN HOW

MAKE YOUR HOME MORE ATTRACTIVE AND
MORE EFFICIENT BY REPLACING YOUR WINDOWS



PROJECT KNOW-HOW

Replacement windows are available in various shapes, styles, colors, and construction types. They are commonly made of wood, aluminum, or vinyl. Each manufacturer's product has its own specific installation instructions, but on the whole, window units are installed in the same manner.

SKILL SCALE

Medium

SKILLS REQUIRED

Basic carpentry skills will be necessary to install a window.

TIME REQUIRED

Experienced: 30 min.; Handy: 45 min.; Novice: 1 hr.

TOOLS

Hammer, 4-foot level, circular saw, drill and bit, nail set, utility knife, caulking gun

MATERIALS

Window, wood shims, drip edge, casing nails, fiberglass insulation, silicone caulk

INSTALLING REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

STEP 1

REMOVE THE EXISTING WINDOW OR WALL SURFACE AND THEN TEST-FIT THE WINDOW, centering it in the rough opening. Support the window with wood blocks and shims placed below the horizontal jambs. Make sure the window is plumb and level, and adjust the shims if necessary.



STEP 2

CLAMP OR HOLD THE MOULDING IN PLACE, THEN TRACE AROUND IT. If you have vinyl or aluminum siding, you may need to install something called a J-channel to hold the trim. This usually requires trimming away a bit more siding. If a J-channel is required it will be called for and explained in the manufacturer's instructions.



STEP 3

CUT THE SIDING ALONG THE OUTLINE. Use a circular saw adjusted so the blade depth equals the thickness of the siding. Start the cut with the toe of the saw plate on the siding, but with the blade and heel of the plate above the surface. Slide the saw guard back, start the saw, and ease the blade into the wood. To avoid splintering, stop before the corner. Complete the corner cuts with a sharp chisel.



STEP 4

CUT A LENGTH OF DRIP EDGE TO FIT OVER THE TOP OF THE WINDOW, and then slide it between the siding and the building paper.



STEP 5

YOUR WINDOW WILL EITHER HAVE A PIECE OF MOULDING, CALLED BRICK Mould, AROUND THE OUTSIDE, OR A NAILING FIN. If it has brick mould, apply a continuous bead of caulk around the opening. If it has a nailing fin, apply the caulk to the back of the fin.



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LEARN HOW

STEP 6

INSERT THE WINDOW INTO THE OPENING and push the brick mould or nailing fin tight against the sheathing.



STEP 7



CHECK TO SEE HOW MUCH ADJUSTMENT WILL BE NECESSARY to level and plumb the window unit.

STEP 8

IF THE WINDOW IS PERFECTLY LEVEL, TACK IT IN PLACE.

On a window with brick mould, do this by predrilling and then driving 16d casing nails partway into the top corners of the moulding. If the window is uneven, correct it by shimming below the side jambs and then tacking in place. Wear ear and eye protection when working with power tools.



STEP 9



PLACE SHIMS TOGETHER SO THAT THEIR COMBINED THICKNESS WILL FILL THE OPENING BETWEEN THE JAMBS AND FRAMING. Despite the nails you just put in, the window will still move somewhat. Use the shims to center the window in the opening.

STEP 10



MEASURE THE DIAGONALS OF THE WINDOW FOR SQUARE. If they are equal, the window is square. If not, adjust the shims until the window is square. Always recheck for level and square after you adjust the shims.

INSTALLING REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

STEP 11

IF THE WINDOW HAS A BRICK MOULD, PREDRILL HOLES IN IT AND DRIVE 16D NAILS THROUGH IT AND INTO THE FRAMING.

If the window has a nailing fin, nail through it into the framing. In either case, start at the corners and space the remaining nails as recommended by the manufacturer. Drive all nailheads below the wood surface with a nail set.



STEP 12

A WINDOW WITH A NAILING FIN OFTEN HAS A SPECIAL-ORDER MOULDING

that you apply over it. Install as directed by the manufacturer.



STEP 13



FILL THE GAPS BETWEEN THE WINDOW JAMBS and the framing members with loosely packed fiberglass insulation. Wear work gloves, safety glasses, and a dust mask when handling insulation.

STEP 14



TRIM THE SHIMS FLUSH WITH THE FRAMING by scoring them with a utility knife and then snapping off the excess.

STEP 15

APPLY PAINTABLE SILICONE CAULK AROUND THE ENTIRE WINDOW UNIT and fill the nail holes with caulk. When the caulk dries, paint to match the trim on the rest of your house.



1-2-3 YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE



For other projects like this, please refer to **Home Improvement 1-2-3** available at your local The Home Depot store.

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