



WINDOW MATERIALS

WINDOWS Points of Comparison	PREMIUM VINYL	PAINTED FIBERGLASS	WOOD	METAL-CLAD WOOD	VINYL-CLAD WOOD
Expected Life Span	30 Years	The longest lifespan...so long its overall lifespan is still unknown	25 Years	10 to 25 Years	20 to 30 Years
Warranty	Limited Lifetime Warranty Usually Transferrable	Limited Lifetime Warranty or limited to specific timeframe (years); Usually Transferrable	20 Year Warranty	Usually limited to 20 years or less; Rarely transferrable; Seldom warrantied against wood rot	Usually limited because of wooden structure
Maintenance	Window cleaning only	Exterior painting every 5-10 years; Possibly refinish interior wood	5-10 Year Schedule of Maintenance; Re-Varish Interior of Frames	Sanding, refinishing of wooden exteriors about every 5 years	No exterior maintenance required
Structure & Durability	Fusion-welded frames are durable, rigid & resist extremes of cold and heat; Not as Strong as Wood or Aluminum	Most durable; No expansion from heat, cold or moisture; Solid construction	Extruded Aluminum Frames; Architecturally Designed Window; Heavier Gauge Frames	Screwed frames, expanded and contract with temperature and moisture changes; Subject to wood rot	Very durable, combining the best of wood and vinyl
Insulation	Best Energy Star Ratings	Usually Energy Star Rated	Energy Star Rated	Possibly Energy Star Rated	Usually Energy Star Rated
Cost	Best value...20%-30% Less Than Wood; 15% Less With Options (Wood look, foam roller, etc)	Usually less than wooden frame	More Options Available with Products; Hardware, Colors, Species; Grid Styles & Patterns	Usually highest price	Moderately priced, leaning toward the high end

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