



CONSUMER RATINGS

4th Step to Buying New Windows



“Asking for Energy Star Ratings”... You have evaluated your existing windows and decided to replace them. Consumer Ratings recommends taking 7 simple steps to make your purchase easier and more satisfying. This article explores the 4th Step of the process of buying replacement windows for your home or business...

7 Steps to New Windows

- 1) Visit a Local Showroom
- 2) Ask for References
- 3) Schedule an In-home Appointment
- 4) **Ask for Energy Star Ratings**
- 5) Ask for Design Pressure Ratings
- 6) Ask to see the Warranty
- 7) Get a Written Contract

Step 4 – Ask for Energy Star Ratings

In this article we explore the 4th Step of the process of buying replacement windows for your home or business – Asking for Energy Star Ratings.

By now your list of potential contractors to replace your window is shorter because you have taken the first 3 steps to buying new windows and have:

1. Visited showrooms and selected only contractors you feel comfortable having work on your home
2. Asked for, received and checked local references
3. Scheduled In-Home appointments with your short list of replacement window specialists

Now, it is time to narrow which window product will meet your energy efficiency needs by comparing Energy Star Rating Stickers.

Energy Star Stickers are like the “Miles per Gallon Sticker” for your car and will tell you how much energy one window will save compared to another...

Each window has its own energy efficiency label!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through its Energy Star program requires NFRC certified windows to be clearly labeled with fuel efficiency data. Like the MPG sticker on cars, the NFRC sticker can only be removed by the consumer to insure the window installed has exactly the same energy efficiency ratings as the window they were sold and contracted to be installed - not a less energy-efficient, less expensive, inferior product.

The NFRC label shows homeowners the real energy efficiency of the window they choose to buy. Now window buyers can compare the energy efficiency of the different windows they are considering to buy, instead of just relying on a salesman's claims.

Educate Yourself About Energy Star Ratings:

Learn how to read Energy Star Stickers – they are like the “Miles per Gallon Sticker” for your car and will tell you how much energy one window will save compared to another.

- Comparing the Energy Star ratings for different windows should be a key part of your decision making process and will tell you how well a window will insulate against heat loss, reduce solar heat gain that increases air conditioning costs and how much visible light your window will provide to cut down on the use of lighting.
- Energy Star rating data is available for every window made.
- If your replacement window salesman is unwilling or unable to provide Energy Star ratings numbers they do not deserve your business.
- Do not sign a contract that does not specifically state the Energy Star Ratings for the windows to be installed on your home, so you can verify the window ratings on your contract match the label on the windows installed on your home and not a less efficient, lower priced alternative.

Consumer Tip:

- Learn how to read the Energy Star sticker for windows
- Compare window energy ratings when comparing prices!
- Read Consumer Ratings “MPG for Windows” to understand the Energy Star Sticker...