



# CONSUMER RATINGS

## *5<sup>th</sup> Step to Buying New Windows*



**Ask for Design Pressure 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5 – Ask for Design Pressure Ratings (DP Ratings)

In this article we explore the 5<sup>th</sup> Step of the process of buying replacement windows for your home or business – Asking for Design Pressure Ratings. Your list of potential contractors and window product choices is shorter because you have taken the first 4 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
4. Received Energy Star Ratings to Compare Pricing based upon energy savings potential

Now, it is time to narrow your window product choices further by learning which window will provide you with the best protection from air infiltration, water penetration and resistance to forced entry by comparing Design Pressure Ratings (DP Ratings)...

Design Pressure Ratings are like the Crash Test Safety Ratings for automobiles because they tell you how a window will perform when Mother Nature crashes into your home or intruders attempt to enter.

DP Ratings are formulated after standardized tests are independently performed in controlled laboratory environments. Comparing the DP ratings allows us to compare how windows perform when the wind blows, rain falls or an intruder strikes.

***The higher the DP Rating, the more expensive a window costs to produce and the better it will protect you, your loved ones and your property in a weather event or a break-in attempt.***

DP Ratings measure a window's ability to resist air infiltration, water penetration, forced entry and overall structural strength. The higher a window's DP Rating number the better a window will perform in these ways:

- Resistance to Air Infiltration
  - Resistance to Water Penetration
  - Resistance to Forced Entry
  - Overall Structural Strength
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- If your replacement window salesman is unwilling or unable to provide Design Pressure ratings numbers for the windows they are offering you, they have not earned your business.
  - You should delay your purchasing decision until you know DP Rating information for the individual window brand, model and style in your contract because those ratings are a key to determining the level of satisfaction your purchase will provide and the actual cost of window products.

**Consumer Tips:**

- **Read Consumer Ratings "Crash Safety Ratings for Windows" found on DWM/ShelterMagazine.com**
- **Learn how windows perform when Mother Nature crashes into your home.**
- **Learn how windows perform when an intruder attempts to break-in to your home.**
- **"DP Ratings" measure Weather Resistance, Security and Strength of windows.**

2014 REPLACEMENT  
TOP PICKS **WINDOWS**

**BEST BUYS** **CONSUMER RATINGS**