

GREEN WINDOWS: IMPROVING VIEWS

# Maintaining our environment

Today's environmentally-conscious consumers want to build their homes with sustainable, recycled or energy-efficient materials.

**W**hen it comes to windows, you can choose products that will both stand the test of time and effectively manage the sun's rays with energy-efficient glazings.

The following tips can help you select a window manufacturer with environmentally-friendly products and manufacturing processes:

• **Understand The Numbers.**

The window industry uses certain criteria, developed by the National Fenestration Rating Council as a guide to understanding the energy

efficiency and performance of a window or door. U-Factor measures the rate of heat loss through the window. The R-Value measures a window's resistance to the passage of heat. The Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) is the fraction of available solar heat that passes through a window. Windows in warm climates should have low SHGC, while windows in cold climates should have higher SHGC in order to bring in the heat of the sun to heat a home. Research the U-Factor, R-Value and SHGC numbers appropriate for your area online or at the library.

• **Choose Energy-Efficient Glass.**

Insulating glass and low-emissivity coatings significantly improve the energy efficiency of your windows and save you money on energy bills.

• **Materials Matter.** The material of a window's frame plays an

important part in a window's overall performance. Two great options are wood and pultruded fiberglass. Wood, desirable for its warm, traditional look, provides solid energy efficiency. As wood is a renewable resource when managed correctly, ask questions about the manufacturer's commitment to purchasing from reliable lumber suppliers who subscribe to groups such as the Sustainable Forest Initiative. Pultruded fiberglass frames offer superior energy efficiency, because fiberglass expands and contracts at the same rate as the glass in temperature extremes, decreasing stress cracks or seal failures. Silica sand is the primary component in the manufacturing of fiberglass and is an abundant and renewable resource.

• **Durability.** Choose durable windows and doors that have the quality craftsmanship and strength to last.



For example, Marvin Windows and Doors manufactures durable extruded aluminum clad wood windows with a commercial grade finish for superior protection against dents, scrapes and fading, meaning that your windows will look new for years.

In addition, look for a company with environmentally responsible manufacturing processes. Companies such as Marvin Windows and Doors that actively promote recycling, clean

manufacturing and waste management are often recognized by government or industry awards.

To learn more about Marvin's environmental commitment, visit [www.marvin.com](http://www.marvin.com) or call (888) 537-8268.

Energy-efficient windows are not only friendly to the environment, they can save you money by lowering heating and cooling costs. ■

NAPSI

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With 20 years of experience as a school teacher it has helped me to educate my clients in the business of real estate. I have attended elementary, high school, junior college locally and graduated from San Jose State University. I have been involved in the community as a soccer and wrestling coach. I have held a California Real Estate license for 19 years and have experience in

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