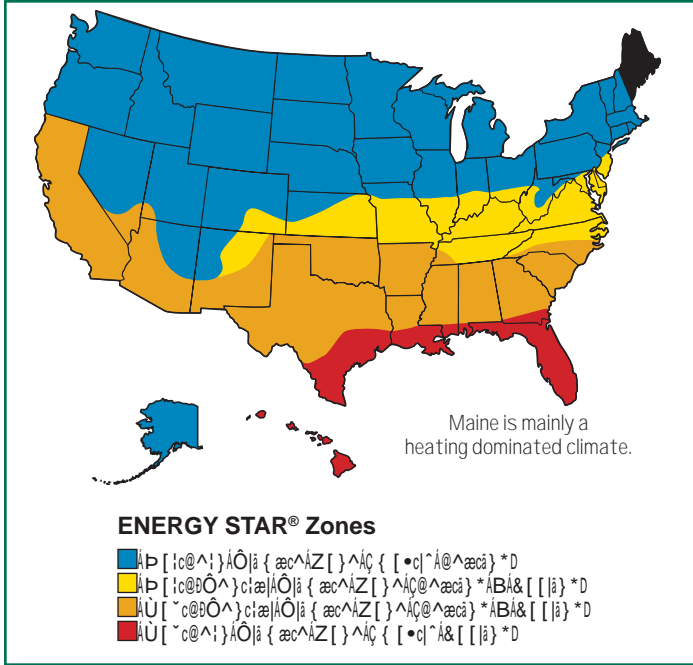




Fact Sheet: Selecting Energy Efficient Windows in Maine

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

September 2007



Benefits of High Performance Windows

Cooling and Heating Season Savings

High performance windows reduce energy costs by minimizing heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer, leading to significant savings on heating and cooling bills.

Improved Daylight and View

Energy efficient windows provide clear, unobstructed views and maximize natural daylight, reducing the need for artificial lighting and improving occupant well-being.

Improved Comfort

By reducing drafts and uneven temperatures, high performance windows improve indoor thermal comfort and reduce the risk of mold and mildew.

Reduced Condensation

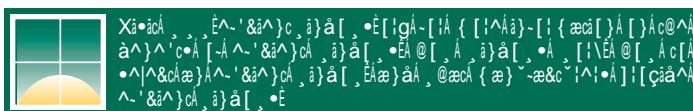
High performance windows have multiple panes and gas fills that reduce condensation on the interior surface, protecting finishes and improving air quality.

Reduced Fading

Low-emissivity (low-E) coatings on window panes reduce ultraviolet radiation, helping to protect interior furnishings and flooring from fading.

Lower Mechanical Equipment Costs

Reduced energy loads from high performance windows allow for smaller, less expensive heating and cooling equipment, lowering initial costs.



1. Look for the ENERGY STAR®

The ENERGY STAR logo is a key indicator of energy efficiency. It is awarded to products that meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For windows, this means they have a U-Factor of 0.35 or lower and a Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) of 0.32 or lower.



2. Look for Efficient Window Properties on the NFRC Label

The National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) label provides detailed performance data for windows. Key metrics include U-Factor, Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC), Visible Transmittance (VT), Air Leakage (AL), and Condensation Resistance (CR). These ratings help consumers compare different window products and make informed choices based on their climate and needs.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS	
U-Factor (U.S./IP)	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient
0.35	0.32
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS	
Visible Transmittance	Air Leakage (U.S./IP)
0.51	0.2
Condensation Resistance	
51	—

Manufacturer declares that these ratings conform to applicable NFRC procedures for determining window product performance. These ratings are determined on a basis of laboratory conditions and do not represent actual field performance. Product performance may vary. For more information, visit www.nfrc.org.

3. Compare Annual Energy Costs for a Typical House

Using the U.S. Department of Energy's RESNETS software, you can compare the annual energy costs for a typical house with different window configurations. This tool helps identify the most cost-effective window options based on your specific climate and house characteristics.



4. Customize Energy Use for a Specific House

The RESNETS software allows for a highly customized analysis of energy use. You can input specific house details such as location, orientation, and existing window types to get a more accurate prediction of energy costs and the potential savings from window upgrades.

