

# Windows and Doors Glossary of Industry Terms

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When you're researching replacement windows and doors for your home, or when communicating with home improvement contractors, it can help to know some industry terms, such as these:

## **AAMA**

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American Architectural Manufacturers Association. The association of manufacturers that sets the industry's accepted standards for the production of doors and windows.

## **Argon Gas**

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The inert, nontoxic gas used for filling between glass panels as an insulator to slow heat transfer in energy-efficient windows.

## **Bay Window**

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A composition of three window units, usually with a large picture window in the middle and narrower windows on the sides. In a bay window design, the side windows are sometimes operable, often casement or double-hung styles.

## **Casement Window**

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A window hinged on both sides so that the sash can swing outward for full ventilation.

## **Caulking**

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A sealing compound used for filling cracks and joints to prevent air and/or water leaks.

## Condensation

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Condensation is the conversion of water vapor to liquid water, either due to the air cooling to its dew point or becoming saturated with water vapor to the point that it cannot hold more.

## Double Hung Window

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A window with upper and lower sashes in a frame in which the two panels slide past each other vertically and both can be tilted inward for convenient cleaning.

## Dual Pane Window

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A window made of two glass panes with an airspace between them.

## Energy Star®

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The EPA's program for developing standard guidelines for energy efficiency of various manufactured products. The *Energy Star* designation is assigned to products such as windows, doors, kitchen appliances, and others that are assessed as meeting the program's performance thresholds for energy-efficient windows, doors, and other products.

## Picture Window

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A stationary window that is designed to admit light and/or provide visibility of the exterior or interior space and that is not designed to open for ventilation.

## R-Value

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A measure of a natural or manufactured insulating material's capacity for resistance to heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the heat flow resistance, which means the better the insular quality of the material.

## Single-Hung Window

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A window with a stationary upper sash and a movable lower sash that can be raised up and down and tilted inward for convenient cleaning.

## Sliding Glass Door

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A double door unit in which the two framed glass panels can slide or roll past each other horizontally on parallel tracks within a single master frame. Often, one panel is stationary.

## U-Value

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A measurement of a door's or window's rate of heat loss. A lower U-value means a greater level of heat flow resistance, which means a better insulation value.

## Vertical Sliding Window

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A window with one or more sashes in a single frame that slides vertically.

## **Vinyl Window**

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A window constructed from a Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) material, either flexible or rigid, that is used in manufacturing energy-efficient vinyl windows and other building products.

## **Water Penetration**

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The extent of water infiltration as measured when a sample window is tested under specific conditions of air pressure differentials.

## **Weatherstripping**

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Any of the various insulating materials for covering the edges and joints between window sashes and the window frame or the door and frame to reduce air and/or moisture leaking.

## **Window & Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA)**

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The industry organization that establishes standards for the quality of windows, doors, and skylights, and provides various resources, education, and programs to help businesses provide increased value for customers.

## **Window Pane**

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A single glass panel in a window.

## **For More Information About Windows and Doors**

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Energy Shield engineers energy-efficient windows and doors specifically for high performance and long-term durability in the extreme conditions of the southwest U.S. desert region. We sell all our products factory-direct. That means our customers get the best possible price, quality, and service, expert factory-trained installers, and no third-party warranty handling.

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