

August 2002

Windows: Vinyl vs Wood

Among the top ten most frequently asked questions a builder hears, one would have to be: "What are the best windows for my house, vinyl or wood?"

Like any good salesperson we would have to question back.

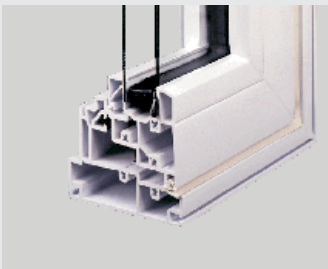
It's hard to beat the natural beauty of wood windows, yet, what if you are painting the trim? Are your windows competing with that fancy whirlpool for your available funds? These are just a few of the questions to be considered.

For years vinyl windows were looked down upon as "lower end ". Old preconceptions are hard to change and all *anyone* had ever used was wood.

How times have changed! About 40% of all new homes built today have vinyl windows.

Vinyl windows are less expensive then comparable vinyl-clad or aluminum-clad windows. They come in very nearly as many styles as wood, and with nearly identical glazing options.

When it comes to keeping out the hot and the cold, vinyl extrusions have about the same energy efficiency as wood window frames. The extrusions are usually made from PVC (polyvinyl chloride) and have a number a hollow chambers in them. These



dead air spaces make the extrusion resistant to transferring heat and cold. They are also what gives the

window it's strength.

These extrusions are usually heat welded together, making for a strong, ridged unit. Once installed they need no maintenance.

Because windows are mostly glass, glazing has a huge effect on the performance of any window. The most efficient windows are filled with an inert gas such as argon, have "warm edge" spacers, and "low-e" coatings. The inert gas allows less conductive heat transfer through the glass, the warm edge spacers between the inner and outer glazing transfers less heat then the traditional metal spacers, and low-e coatings are actually thin layers of metal either coated on the glazing itself, or suspended between the glazing on a thin film of clear vinyl. This thin coating of metal actually reflects specific wavelengths of energy, allowing the light to pass, but reflecting ultra-violet waves. This not only makes the window less prone to radiating heat, but protects the fabrics of carpet and furniture from the harmful effects of direct sunlight.

Window Ratings

The Energy Star label certifies that the window unit meets the minimum Department of Energy standards for our climate. A better measure of how efficient a window unit is would come from it's National Fenestration Rating Council label. This will show the insulation value, along with an air leakage rating. The lower the numbers, the better the rating. The label also covers glazing and includes solar heat gain, and visible transmittance.

Check out the following web sites:

National Fenestration Rating Council- www.nfrc.org

Energy Star- www.energystar.gov

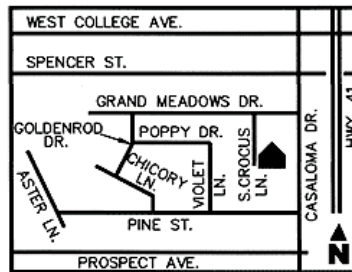
Fall Parade of Homes

It's that time of year again! Preparations are almost done for this years Fall parade of homes. Our entry this year is a custom built version of our "Daniel" floor plan.



This home features a dramatic open staircase wrapped around the 2 story foyer. A barrel vaulted hall grants access to the fireplaced great room. White woodwork, hardwood floors and traditional styling cues on the first floor give way to the warm hues of stained maple on the second level. Look for little details, like the maple lockers for the kids in the back entry or the nifty window seat in the master suite.

The parade will run August 17th to the 25th. Hours Saturday and Sunday will be from 11 am to 5 pm. Tuesday through Friday hours are 5 pm to 8pm. There are 44 homes in this year's tour, tickets are available at each home. Prices are: Adults \$8 and children \$4. You can find both Homes by Bill Rounds and your tickets at 1044 Crocus Lane, Appleton.



We'll be looking for you!

Home Building Seminar

For those of you who have more questions then answers when it comes to new home construction, you're in luck. Community First Credit Union will help you find a way!

Their very popular Building Your New Home seminar will be September 19th. Speakers will be able to answer all of your questions, from title insurance, lot selection, what loan product might be right for you etc. One of the featured speakers is our very own Bill Rounds.

The time for the seminar is Sept 19th 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Registration is requested. You can register at: www.communityfirstcu.org/home_seminar.html

Homes for sale

Right now we have 2 homes which are looking for an owner! W6045 Jessica Lane in the Town of Harrison is an open concept split bedroom ranch being offered at \$169,900.



Also available is our 2 story at 3119 Gazebo Hill Rd., in the Providence Trails subdivision of north Appleton. Construction schedule and photos are posted on our web site. www.billrounds.com

