

WINDOW TERMINOLOGY REFERENCE GUIDE

adjustment clip	Hardware on hung window jambs to align jamb after window installation.
air infiltration	The amount of air leaking in and out of a building through cracks in walls, windows, and doors (the lower, the better).
argon	An inert, colorless, and harmless gas used instead of air in sealed spaces between panes of glass in insulating glass units to increase insulation. Argon is less conductive to heat than air.
astragal	The center member of a double door, which is attached to the fixed or inactive door panel.
awning	A type of window with a top-hinged sash that swings out at the bottom -- lets in fresh air while keeping rain out.
awning window	A window unit in which the bottom of the sash swings outward.
back bedding	The process of adhering and sealing.
balance	A mechanical device, normally spring loaded, used in hung windows to counterbalance the weight of the sash during opening and closing.
balance shoe	Nylon hardware in hung window jamb that connects the balance with the sash.
bay window	A composite of three windows, usually made up of a large center unit and two flanking units at 30- or 45-degree angles to the wall. A bay projects from the wall of the structure.
bead	A molding or stop placed around a window frame to hold the glass in place by pressure.
bow window	A composite of four or more window units in a radial or bow formation gently curved contour. Bow windows also project from the walls of the structure.
brickmold	A type of external casing which frames windows and doors. Exterior casing around window to cover jambs and provide means for nailing during installation.
casement	A type of window with a side-hinged sash that opens like a door -- the best window for catching breezes and providing cross-ventilation.
casement window	A window unit in which the single sash cranks outward, to the right or left. Projecting window hinged at the sides and usually opening outward like a door.
casing	Molding of various widths, thickness and shapes applied to the framework of window and door units. Interior casing is a flat, decorative moulding which covers the inside edge of the jambs and the rough opening between the window unit and the wall. Exterior casing (or brick mould) serves the same purpose, while it also is an installation device through which nails are driven to install the window unit into the wall.
caulking	Sealants used to seal fixed and movable construction joints and prevent infiltration.
cladding	An aluminum material locked to the outside faces of many products to provide a durable, low-maintenance exterior surface.
condensation	The change of a gas to a liquid state. Because warm air can hold more water vapor than cold air, as warm air cools its ability to hold water vapor is reduced. Excess moisture condenses on the warm side of glass. e.g., condensation on the outside of a glass of ice-water.
cottage double-hung	A double-hung window in which the upper sash is shorter than the lower sash.
desiccant	A porous crystalline substance used to absorb moisture and/or sealant solvents from within the sealed air space of an insulating glass unit.
double glazing	Use of two panes of glass in a window to increase energy efficiency and provide other performance benefits.
double strength glass	(DSB) 1/8" thickness.
double-hung window	A window unit that has two operable sashes which move vertically in the frame. Two vertically sliding sash which by-pass each other in a single frame. Sashes typically fit within vinyl balances and tilt out and remove for safe, easy cleaning.
dry glazing	A method of securing glass in a window frame with a dry, preformed, resilient gasket, without the use of a glazing compound.
dual glazed	Two single lites glazed into a split sash with an airspace, not hermetically sealed, between the two single lites.

egress window	A window with specific release hardware and minimum clear opening size to allow occupants to escape through the window in case of a fire.
ER Rating	Energy Rating number developed by CSA (Canadian Standards Association) to compare the thermal performance of windows. Measured in watts per square meter (W/m ²).
extension jambs	Flat wood parts which are nailed to the interior edges of the window jamb to extend it in width and adapt to a thicker wall. The inside edge of extension jambs should be flush with the finished wall surface. Interior casing is then nailed into it.
exterior glazed	Glass glazed from the exterior of the building.
extrusion	A form produced by forcing material through a die.
fenestration	An architectural term referring to the arrangement of windows in a wall. From the Latin word, "fenestra," meaning window.
fin seal	A form of pile weatherstrip that has a plastic mylar fin centered in the pile. This fin reduces air infiltration and ensures weatherstrip contact throughout the window's life.
finger-jointing	A means of joining individual pieces of wood together to form longer lengths. The ends of the pieces are machined to form a set of interlocking fingers, which are then coated with adhesive and meshed together under pressure.
fixed	Non-venting or non-operable.
fixed unit	A stationary window or door that does not open -- also referred to as a fixed sash.
flange frame	A window frame with the head, jamb, and sill exterior perimeter leg longer than the interior perimeter leg.
foam spacer	Foam material placed in the airspace of the insulating glass windows to enhance the appearance and improve the performance of the window.
frame	Consists of a head, jambs, and sill to form an opening into which sash or door panels fit.
gasket	A rubber or plastic pliable material used to separate glazed glass and aluminum or vinyl.
glazing	Glass in a window or door; the act or process of fitting glass or panels into the sash or frame of the window.
glazing	The installation of glass into a window or door sash. Also refers to the type of glass used in the process.
glazing bead / stop	A molding or stop around a window frame to hold the glass in place by pressure. A vinyl or wood strip, applied around the perimeter of the glass on the exterior of the window sash, for holding the glass in place.
grille	A term referring to windowpane dividers or muntins, usually a type of assembly which may be detached for cleaning.
grilles	Decorative inserts for windows or door glazing that add a traditional touch -- available as fixed or removable inserts, in wood, brass, or vinyl.
grilles-between-the-glass	Aluminum bars in varying thicknesses and profiles sealed between insulating glass panels to simulate muntin bars.
head	The main horizontal member forming the top of the window or door frame.
hopper	A window unit in which the top of the sash swings inward.
Insulating Glass Unit (IGU)	A combination of two or more panes of glass with sealed air space(s) between panes -- dualpanes, tripanes, and quadpanes. Also referred to as thermopanes or sealed units.
Insulating glass(IG)	Two pieces of glass spaced apart and hermetically sealed to form a unit with an air space between. Heat transmission through this type of glass may be as low as half that without such an air space. A combination of two or more panes of glass with a hermetically sealed air space between the panes of glass. This space may or may not be filled with an inert gas, such as argon. Two sheets of glass bonded together in a unit to enclose a captive air space. Units are constructed with a metal spacer inside the outer perimeter. The outer edges are sealed. Spacers contain desiccant material for absorbing and holding any remaining moisture in the air space.
insulation	A material with high resistance (high R-value or low U-value) that is used to retard heat flow. Air, Argon, or Krypton gas spaces between panes of glass provide insulation in IGUs.
integral mullion	A frame member trapped within the master frame to separate vents or fixed glass.
interior glazed	Glass glazed from the interior of the building.
interlock	A design feature which enables sash to become engaged with one another when closed.
jamb	The main vertical members forming the sides of a window or door frame. Side jambs are the vertical pieces of a window frame. The head jamb is the horizontal piece across the top. The vertical member of a window frame.
jamb liner	In a modern double-hung window, the track installed inside the jambs on which the window sashes slide. Vinyl or metal covering applied to the side jambs of double hung and single hung windows. They are generally formed to include an integral balance system and stops for the exterior and interior surfaces of the sash.

K.D.	<i>Knocked Down</i> - product components that are shipped unassembled, e.g., the frame for a sliding glass door.
keeper	A hardware device into which a window locking latch engages for security. The receiving portion of a lock that interlocks with the lock arm. It's mounted to the upper sash check rail on a double hung or single hung window and the inside surface of the sash stile on a casement window.
krypton	An inert, colorless gas used instead of air in sealed spaces between panes of glass in insulating glass units to increase insulation. Provides greater insulation than Argon.
laminated glass	Two or more lites of glass bonded together with a plastic inner layer.
low e or low-emissivity (low-e) glass	A transparent coating applied to a glass surface to separate long wave (heat) energy and short wave (light) energy. The long wave is reflected back to the heat source. The short wave is allowed to pass through the coating. A special type of glass having a transparent material fused into its surface which acts as a thermal mirror.
low e glass	Low Emissivity glass with a transparent coating which acts as a thermal mirror -- used to increase a window's insulating value, block or increase heat flow, and reduce fading. See Solar Gain and Solar Shield.
meeting rail	The part of a hung window where the two sash meet and create a weather barrier.
mullion	An extrusion that joins windows. A wood or metal part used to structurally join two window or door units. The vertical or horizontal divisions or joints between individual windows in a multiple window unit.
mullion cover	An extrusion that joins panning perimeter legs that extend over existing mullions.
muntin	extrusions in the sash which are exterior (outside of the glass exterior face), internal (in the insulating glass airspace), or true (dividing the glass) which appear to or actually divide the glass into smaller lites.
nailing fin	A vinyl or metal flange integrated into (or attached to) the perimeter of a window frame for installation onto the rough opening's header, jack studs and rough sill. A continuous nailing fin may surround the frame as with an all-vinyl window or a nailing fin may be affixed to the head and side jambs as with a vinyl clad window frame.
nite latch	Hardware which, when extended, restricts the sash opening to a predetermined dimension.
obscure glass	Mainly used for decoration, diffusion, or privacy. The pattern is rolled into the hot glass during glass manufacturing.
operating unit	A window or door that opens -- also referred to as a vent unit or operator.
operator	A metal arm and gear device which allows for easy opening and closing of projecting windows; e.g. casement and awning windows.
oriel window	A window with unequal sash.
palladian window	A large, arch-top window flanked by smaller windows on each side.
pane	A framed sheet of glass.
patio doors	Sliding glass doors, often used for access to a deck or terrace.
picture window	A large stationary (non-ventilating) window which is designed for a maximum view without obstruction.
picture windows	A type of window using only fixed units -- best for a clear view and energy efficiency.
prime frame	A window frame which has an extended perimeter leg 1" back from the window exterior plane, which becomes a nailing fin for new construction installation.
PVC	<i>Poly Vinyl Chloride</i> - in rigid frame/sash members, and in flexible gaskets.
pyrolytic coating	A special coating "sprayed" directly onto glass while it is still in a molten state, resulting in a permanently embedded surface coating.
rail	The top and bottom horizontal members of the framework of a window sash or door panel. a horizontal sash member.
rough opening	The opening built into a frame wall to receive a window or door unit. It is formed with a header along the top that's supported by jack studs on each side. The rough sill at the bottom is supported by cripples. A rough opening is generally greater in width and height than the window or door unit. The framed opening in a wall into which a window or door unit is to be installed.
sash	The inner frame which holds glass in operable and fixed window units.
sash	The operating portion of a hung or horizontal sliding window. A single assembly of stiles and rails made into a frame for holding glass. The framework holding the glass in a window unit. It's composed of two stiles (sides) and two rails (top and bottom).
sash balance	A coiled spring or spiral system integrated into the jamb liners to allow double hung or single hung sashes to open and close. They also allow the sashes to remain open in varied positions.
sash lift	A protruding handle screwed to the inside bottom rail of the lower sash on a double-hung window. Available on double-hung windows.
sash lock	Generally, a cam-action lock applied to the check rails of a double/single hung window, or sliding window to pull the check rails tightly together. They are also applied to the open edges of a projecting window to seal the sash tightly to the frame. Sash locks provide security and weatherability.

sash stop	Cover in jamb track that reduces sash travel on hung windows.
screw boss	A continuous screw track in an extrusion. The track is designed to accept a specific diameter sheet metal screw to provide a secure means of fastening extrusions without the use of reinforcement.
SEAT BOARD	A flat board cut to fit the contour of a bow or bay window that's installed between the sills and the flat wall surface. They provide a seat or shelf space.
side lights	Tall, narrow, fixed or operating sash on either or both sides of a door to light an entryway or vestibule. Narrow fixed units mullied or joined to door units to give a more open appearance. Tall, narrow, fixed or operating sash on either or both sides of a door to light an entryway or vestibule.
sidelight	A narrow fixed unit joined to one or more doors, providing a more open appearance.
sill	The bottom of a door or window frame.
sill	The main horizontal member forming the bottom of the frame of a window or door. The horizontal piece that forms the bottom of a window frame. It is generally slanted down to the outside to shed standing water. The lower horizontal member of a window frame.
sill angle	Extrusion that, when applied below the window, permits the gap below the window to be closed after window installation.
simulated divided light	A method of constructing windows in which muntins are affixed to the inside and outside of a panel of insulating glass to simulate the look of true divided light.
single-hung	A double-hung type of window in which the top sash is fixed or inoperable.
slider	A type of window with one fixed sash, and one that slides sideways -- good where outside clearance is limited.
sliding window	A window with two or more sashes that slide horizontally past each other within the frame.
sputtered coating	A coating deposited on glass or film atom-by-atom in a precise process inside a vacuum chamber.
stile	A vertical sash member. The vertical side pieces of a window sash or door panel. The main vertical members of the framework of a sash or door panel.
stop	A molding used to hold, position or separate window parts.
subsill	Refers to extrusions positioned to collect water leakage through mullions and products and drain it to the exterior. Used where high performance water resistance is required and for windows joined with mullions. It runs continuously across the opening width and can be spliced together to cover wide openings. The ends are sealed with end dams.
tempered glass	Glass that has been heat-treated to become more than three times stronger -- also known as safety glass because it breaks into small pebbles rather than jagged shards. It is used in sliding glass doors and windows susceptible to impact or breakage.
tempered glass	Glass manufactured to withstand greater than normal forces on its surface. When it breaks, it shatters into small pieces to reduce hazard. Glass that has first been cut to size, then heated to a very high temperature and then rapidly brought back to room temperature. It will withstand severe punishment from a blunt object; however, any pointed object will break the glass instantly and the glass will crumble into many, very small pieces.
thermal break	An air space or insulating material which prevents the direct coupling of a cold surface to a heated surface.
tinted glass	Glass other than clear, with a color cast or tint. Typically tinted glass absorbs and blocks heat, and reduces visible light transmittance.
transom	A window installed above another window or door.
transom	A small window that fits over the top of a door or window, primarily for additional light and aesthetic value.
tripane	An insulating glass unit consisting of three panes of glass with two internal air spaces.
u-value	Rate of heat flow-value through the complete heat barrier, from room air to outside air. The lower the U-value, the better the insulating value.
vent	The operating portion of a window that swings or projects in or out.
vinyl	A plastic material used by some window for cladding or entire window units.
warm edge spacers	Insulating spacers used to seal panes of glass in the manufacture of insulated glass units -- edge conductivity is lessened for improved window energy performance and reduced condensation problems. Warm edge spacers include Swiggle Seal® by Tremco Ltd., and HeatSeal* from Southwall Technologies Inc.
weather stripping	Thin sections of material used to prevent air leakage around operable windows and doors -- usually foam gasketing, metal strips, or vinyl.
weatherstripping	A material or device used to seal the openings, gaps or cracks of venting window and door units to prevent water and air infiltration.
weep slot	An opening cut into a window sill and/or sash rail to allow water to drain to the exterior.
window size	Always expressed as width first, then height.