



Find the best replacement windows for your home



The Window Dog – Find the Best Replacement Windows



## WHAT'S A WINDOW DOG?

My trusty hound dog and I decided to start this site to provide a little real world info to folks considering replacement windows for their home. I've spent years working in the window business everywhere from distribution centers in Maryland, Massachusetts and Kansas to a 400,000 square foot replacement window manufacturing facility in North Carolina, to a corporate headquarters in Ohio, to a \$10,000,000+ wholesale window distribution center in Virginia and I'm the founder of a multimillion dollar company offering replacement windows and installation services across the country. Hopefully I can use all of that experience to help people make sense of this business.

Why bother spending time writing about the best replacement windows online? For starters, I just got back from the home show in Indianapolis (if you live nearby I highly recommend this show) where I repeatedly heard folks say that they just can't make sense of the different products out there. They don't know who to believe and they struggle to find worthwhile, unbiased information online. Every company says their products are "the best", but that doesn't seem possible.

Over the years I've seen folks make bad decisions based on inaccurate or misleading info they came across online. While most salespeople in our business are good people trying to make a living they don't always have all of their facts straight and there is simply no good place for the consumer to get the real information. There is just no good place to go to find unbiased ratings and reviews of the best replacement windows available.

That's why we're here. As we get started we'll be posting in four general categories:

- [replacement window reviews](#)
- [window ratings explained](#)
- [tricky sales tactics exposed](#)
- [installing your own windows](#)

The goal is to provide real concrete information to help folks figure all of this out.

I'm sure folks will have questions on other topics and we might even find other window pros who disagree on some points. That'll be fun. Post a comment on anything or request more info and I'll do my best to write back as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

So why The Window Dog? Because this is a big purchase and it's important that you get the real info, but it's just windows. We're not going to war or building the space shuttle. Remember to have fun in life and avoid taking things too seriously. Here's the window dog all dressed up for the Fourth of July last year.



He's not much of a water skier, but he sure does love a good boat ride in the summertime!

Take a look through some [replacement window reviews!](#)

## Trying to find the best window company in town?

You're not alone. Every day folks ask us how they can find the best window company in their town.

We've put together the best info we have in our **Five Fast Steps to a Great Window Project** to help our fantastic readers.

You'll quickly learn how to identify the best replacement window companies in your area.

As an added bonus you'll also get the seven most common window sales scams. Best of all, it's absolutely free!



**I want this!**

Enter your email address:

*We will absolutely NEVER share your email with anyone. Ever.*

### 43 THOUGHTS ON "WHAT'S A WINDOW DOG?"



**Guard Dogs**

APRIL 6, 2014 AT 5:01 PM

Forget the entire article.. i m in love with the picture of dog wrapped in flag.. this gives me a new idea to try on my dog.

# Visited 09/24/2015

↳ REPLY



★ **thewindowdog**

APRIL 8, 2014 AT 1:06 PM

Ha, he's a patriotic little guy. Glad you liked it!

↳ REPLY



**Samreen**

MAY 26, 2014 AT 2:33 AM

Oh great article really like that  
thankx for sharing 😊

↳ REPLY



**Emily**

AUGUST 2, 2014 AT 3:17 PM

I noticed the Lost Dog and Cat banner...they are awesome!

My last two pups were from them.

I have spent more time and research on shopping for windows  
for my townhome than I care to think about and have gotten 3  
quotes that were all over the place.

The prices were a pretty big spread and I have to confess I have  
no flipping idea what is up or down. Your site is helping a bit  
though.

↳ REPLY



★ **thewindowdog**

AUGUST 3, 2014 AT 11:17 AM

They are awesome! We got our little guy about 2 years ago  
now and he's fantastic!

Glad the site is helping, at least a little. I recommend Angie's  
List a lot because it really is a great place to start. If you haven't  
come across it yet, you can [see our thoughts here](#). You'll also  
find discounts on membership, it's [well worth the price!](#)

↳ REPLY



**Kay**

AUGUST 19, 2014 AT 10:42 AM

Love your site, but would like to know the name of the  
company you head. Thank you.

↳ REPLY

# Visited 09/24/2015



★ **thewindowdog**

AUGUST 19, 2014 AT 12:09 PM

Hi Kay, thanks for your comment. We're trying to avoid advertising through the site. If you're looking for a great local contractor I'd suggest [Angie's List. You can find our thoughts on Angie here.](#)

↪ REPLY



**Susan**

OCTOBER 30, 2014 AT 1:00 AM

Do you have a window company in the Chicago north metro area? I checked out The Window Dog on Angie's List but nothing came up. I live in a condo and I don't know if I can do replacement windows, because the uniformity of all the apartments would be different. Also, the 38 year old exterior frames may need to be replaced also. Do replacement windows need to be installed inside of the existing window frames?



★ **thewindowdog**

OCTOBER 30, 2014 AT 8:54 AM

We don't have anyone that we recommend in Chicago, but we are looking for companies to recommend all over the country. If you have a great experience with a company in your area please let us know!



**Barry Kroboth**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 AT 6:25 PM

When will the best window review for 2014 be available and where. I reside in northern Virginia and am looking to replace 21 double hung windows. Been looking for 2 years and am tired of all the BS. Originally looking at fiberglass but after reading your reviews well maybe I'll stick to vinyl or stay with wood. I rows get windy and cold. Looking for either the best wood or vinyl window. Can you recommend. BTW did have a visit from Apex what a scam, but the sales people were ok. Usually I politely tell them not interested. Help. I'm so tired of looking. I am an Angies member and Direct Buy also. Any thoughts on Pollard?

↪ REPLY



**Rob**

OCTOBER 8, 2014 AT 8:24 PM

Ridgeback?

↪ REPLY



★ **thewindowdog**

OCTOBER 9, 2014 AT 7:41 AM

# Visited 09/24/2015

He get's that a lot, but he's actually a redbone coonhound. We can sleep easy at night knowing there are no varmints in our backyard!

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Matthew**

OCTOBER 16, 2014 AT 2:48 PM

Can you tell me anything about Gilkey Windows ? Right now seriously considering them and Soft-Lite, have had friends/family recommend both....We are in Cincinnati

Thanks - love this site and the info you provide

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Amanda**

NOVEMBER 6, 2014 AT 11:56 PM

What do you know about Castle Windows. They are a company in Mount Lauren PA and claim to make great windows. Looking for more (true) information.

[↩ REPLY](#)



★ **thewindowdog**

NOVEMBER 10, 2014 AT 10:17 AM

Well they wouldn't claim to make bad windows would they? In fact they don't make windows at all. You might want to do a little more research. You'll find the savings will likely be substantial.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**FIFA 15 Münzen**

NOVEMBER 25, 2014 AT 9:54 AM

I went over this website and I conceive you have a lot of excellent info, saved to fav (:.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Agustin**

NOVEMBER 29, 2014 AT 5:00 AM

Thank you for another informative site. Where else could I get that type of info written in such an ideal way? I have a project that I am just now working on, and I have been on the look out for such information.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Pam larson**

# Visited 09/24/2015

DECEMBER 3, 2014 AT 5:03 PM

I am now totally confused.

I need replacement windows for my condo.

Can you simply recommend a good, moderately priced window company?

[↪ REPLY](#)



**Tom**

DECEMBER 5, 2014 AT 1:39 PM

Based on my research and “thewindowdog” insight/expertise and reviews, I went with the Alside Mezzo. Very happy with the windows. Great price and happy with the look. Plus the installation, per my installer followed the rules (best practices) which I think is 50% of window purchase. Great window + honest pricing + correct installation = worth the money spent.

[↪ REPLY](#)



**J.P.**

JANUARY 4, 2015 AT 11:24 AM

The biggest problem with window “install” companies is that they represent manufacturing their own windows . When 99% of the time they buy from national suppliers (that homeowners could buy directly from thru supply centers) I worked 8 years for a manufacturer/distributor and made arrangements to purchase windows for my nephews house thru an employee discount program (they generously offered 40% below printed cost) however my sister in law called a window company and the salesman told her “We get a better window than the employee could buy because they have their own specs that the window manufacturer uses to build their windows” Absolutely WRONG the company builds 5 grades of windows with several options available on each model . But the slick salesman talked her into a contract & it was a complete nightmare and they ended up using windows from a cheaper manufacturer to beat the price I had gotten for the project .

[↪ REPLY](#)



**Mike Nereng**

JANUARY 6, 2015 AT 9:43 AM

I am strongly considering Gilkey. Their ratings seem very good for a reasonable price. Any idea when you’ll have a full review for them? Or just some initial thoughts?

[↪ REPLY](#)



**Bonnie**

JANUARY 24, 2015 AT 3:16 PM

Thank you for your great site. I don’t see reviews of the soft light barrington or the Polaris Thermawald. I seem to get the idea that

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they are comparable mid-grade windows. Is this correct? Advice?  
Looking to replace 20 windows in a 1927 home that had the original wood single pane with aluminum storms added.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Gerald Vonberger**

MARCH 25, 2015 AT 5:45 PM

Thank you so much for providing some reliable information on what windows to choose for your house. I figured that the type of windows you get really depends on what you're trying to do. If you're trying to increase energy efficiency, you want different windows than if you're trying to make your home look old-fashioned.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Stephan Bashkir**

MAY 6, 2015 AT 6:28 PM

It's so important for people to do research before purchasing anything for their homes. This is especially true when it comes to windows. Many companies will try to just sell you whatever they can, even if it isn't what's best for your home. By doing research, you'll be able to find the right windows for you at the budget you have.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Jan Roman**

JULY 26, 2015 AT 7:00 AM

In know you are talking a lot about replacement window, but we are building a new house. Looking at simonton and alside. Any preference one over the other. And which series

[↩ REPLY](#)



**steve tanner**

MAY 24, 2015 AT 7:23 PM

I am going to replace 13 windows and having a hard time deciding on which brand to go with. I like the Okna but the are much more expensive. So what do you think about Norandex ExtremeX, ExtremeXX, or Simaton Prism?

[↩ REPLY](#)



**jason**

MAY 28, 2015 AT 2:10 PM

Were looking at replacing 12 of our Aluminum framed windows with Renewal by Anderson Fibrex windows. Are we making a bad choice? Paying for a name over quality? Or is there true quality with the name.

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Thanks.

↩ REPLY



**Thom**

JUNE 1, 2015 AT 12:33 PM

Window Dog has already written a good blog entry about Anderson Fibrex window. In a nutshell, there is nothing exceptional about this window. When I looked at the windows after getting a quote, I took note of the following:

– The actual window cost was hidden from me in the quote. The installation cost was blended in with the window cost. Anderson renewal would not share the actual costs line by line. I asked for it, they resisted. So when i calculated the cost divided by the window count, it came to \$1000 per window.

The warranty for these windows are not great. They brag about how the Fibrex are compared to vinyl.... so why the short duration warranty?

The sales person insisted that the wife be present. Cheesy sales approach.

The windows frames are thick, therefore not an attractive window.

Again, nothing exceptional about their window that warrants their price. Anderson Renewal makes the % of money with the installation. Therefore the buy 4 windows, get the 5th one free or whatever rebate they offer is only to get you to schedule with them, feel like you have a window deal, but pay high on the installation. (take the offers with a grain of salt).

↩ REPLY



**B Knapp**

JULY 18, 2015 AT 11:08 AM

One installer said he would cover wood rot with vinyl trim and replacement windows

is it all right to cover rotted trim on outside??. To

↩ REPLY



★ **thewindowdog**

JULY 18, 2015 AT 11:53 AM

No. It's not. The rotten wood needs to be replaced with good wood and then it can be capped with aluminum trim coil. Don't be cheap and don't let him be cheap either. You'll regret it.

↩ REPLY



**Natalie**

# Visited 09/24/2015

JULY 28, 2015 AT 9:17 PM

Hi,

I plan to replace all 38 windows using installers from Angie's list. One installer uses OKNA500, another one uses Simonton Asure. OKNA windows are \$4,500 more than Simonton. Which window is better? Which is a better choice? Please advice.

[↩ REPLY](#)



★ **thewindowdog**

JULY 29, 2015 AT 10:18 AM

The Okna is a much nicer window, but I'm not a huge fan of either option.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Natalie**

JULY 29, 2015 AT 3:21 PM

My installer gave me an option for Alside Mezzo. How about Alside Mezzo vs. Okna 500?

Thanks!

[↩ REPLY](#)



★ **thewindowdog**

JULY 31, 2015 AT 2:40 PM

Why did he tell you one was better than the other?

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Natalie**

JULY 31, 2015 AT 5:54 PM

No, the installer told me about Alside Mezzo windows after learning that I may go with Okna window installer. So, what's your options about Alside Mezzo and Okna500? I am nervous and hope to make a right decision for family.



★ **thewindowdog**

AUGUST 1, 2015 AT 7:04 AM

They're really pretty similar products. Did anything stand out as being better about one vs the other?



**Harry Ericson**

JULY 29, 2015 AT 3:26 PM

Having windows and doors replaced with hurricane impact. DP-50, E-366,Argon. Doors are full view.

I live at the beach in Charleston SC.

I received three prices to include Jeld-Wen, Simonton and Stergis

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which is part of a American Window Alliance.

Best pirce puts Simonton against stergis. Never heard of Stergis.  
Is Jeld-We worth the extra bucks?

[↩ REPLY](#)



★ **thewindowdog**

JULY 31, 2015 AT 2:41 PM

Are you looking at Jeld-Wen wood or vinyl? I'm about to install some Andersen impact windows at the beach in North Carolina, but they're wood casement windows so it's a bit of a different animal.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**terry**

SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 AT 11:29 AM

what can u tell me about CROFT windows?

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Terry Jones**

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 AT 7:34 PM

???- looking for info on croft windows

[↩ REPLY](#)



**rand**

SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 AT 2:26 PM

Do you have a phone number or is there a way to reach you? I have a few questions that maybe you can help me with

[↩ REPLY](#)



★ **thewindowdog**

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 AT 5:46 PM

Use the contact us link at the bottom of every page. We'll be glad to hear from you.

[↩ REPLY](#)



**Jack**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 AT 2:44 PM

I am looking at replacing 16 windows in my home. I have estimates from wincore 7700 for 4,000, polaris ultraweld for 5300, and grand estates for 4,300. Any thoughts? I also have a friend who has installed windows before and will help me and that will save 1,000 off these estimates. Thoughts there too? I live in Akron OH. Thanks

↳ REPLY

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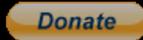
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Throw a dog a bone.



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