

OTTAWA WINDOW PROS



# Costs & Pricing

Window and door costs, budgeting, financing, and  
project estimates in Ottawa

19 Expert Answers from Construction Brain

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## Q1

### Why do corner windows cost three times as much as regular ones?

**Corner windows don't typically cost three times as much as regular windows** - that pricing seems unusually high and may indicate you're looking at a premium specialty product or getting quotes that include extensive structural work.

**Legitimate reasons corner windows cost more** include the need for custom manufacturing since they're not standard sizes, specialized framing requirements, and more complex installation. The corner location often requires additional structural support, especially if you're combining two windows at a 90-degree angle or installing a single wraparound unit. Weather sealing is also more challenging at corners, requiring extra attention to prevent air and water infiltration.

**In the Ottawa market, corner windows typically run 50-100% more than standard windows** - so if a regular window costs \$600 installed, a corner window might be \$900-\$1,200. If you're seeing quotes three times higher, you might be looking at premium architectural units, structural modifications, or quotes that include significant framing work.

**The complexity depends on your specific situation.** Are you replacing existing corner windows in the same opening, or creating a new corner window configuration? New openings require structural engineering, permits, and potentially moving load-bearing elements - that's where costs can escalate quickly. Simple replacement in existing openings should be much more reasonable.

**Get multiple quotes and ask for breakdowns** showing window cost versus installation/structural work. This will help you understand if you're paying for premium materials, complex installation, or necessary structural modifications. For a realistic assessment of your corner window project, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros - we can evaluate your specific situation and provide transparent pricing.

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## Q2

### How much do those decorative window grilles add to the total cost?

**Decorative window grilles typically add \$50-150 per window** depending on the style and complexity you choose.

**Grille-between-glass (GBG) options** are the most popular and cost-effective choice, usually adding \$50-75 per window. These grilles are sealed between the glass panes, so they never need cleaning or maintenance and won't

interfere with window operation. You can choose from colonial, prairie, diamond, or custom patterns to match your home's architectural style.

**Removable interior grilles** cost slightly more at \$75-100 per window since they require additional hardware and clips. While these can be taken off for cleaning, most Ottawa homeowners prefer the maintenance-free GBG option, especially given our harsh winters where exterior cleaning can be challenging.

**Exterior applied grilles** are the premium option at \$100-150 per window, offering the most authentic traditional look with dimensional depth. However, they require regular maintenance and can collect snow and ice in Ottawa's climate.

**For a typical Ottawa home** replacing 12 windows with colonial-pattern grilles between glass, you're looking at an additional \$600-900 total. The investment is worthwhile if grilles match your home's character - they're particularly popular in Westboro, the Glebe, and other heritage neighborhoods where maintaining architectural authenticity adds significant curb appeal and home value.

The grille pattern you choose should complement your home's style. Colonial grilles work well with traditional homes, while prairie patterns suit craftsman and contemporary styles common in newer Ottawa developments.

For a free estimate including grille options that match your home's architecture, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros.

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**Q3**

## What's a fair deposit to put down on a \$20,000 window job?

**A fair deposit on a \$20,000 window job in Ottawa is typically 10-25% of the total contract value, or \$2,000-\$5,000.** Most reputable contractors request around 15-20% to secure materials and schedule the work.

**Industry standards** suggest keeping deposits reasonable - enough for the contractor to order your specific windows (which are often custom-made) but not so much that you're financing their entire operation. For a \$20,000 project, \$3,000-\$4,000 is very common and allows the contractor to place material orders while protecting your interests.

**Be cautious of contractors** asking for 50% or more upfront, especially if they're going door-to-door or pressuring you to sign immediately. Legitimate window companies typically have established credit lines with suppliers and don't need large upfront payments to operate. In Ontario, contractors asking for more than \$500 or 10% (whichever is less) before starting work may be required to provide additional consumer protections.

**Payment structure** should be tied to project milestones - deposit at signing, progress payment when windows arrive or installation begins, and final payment upon completion and your satisfaction. Make sure the contract clearly outlines the payment schedule and what happens if there are delays or issues.

**For your protection**, always pay deposits by credit card or check (never cash), ensure the contractor is licensed and insured, and verify they have a physical business address. The deposit should be clearly outlined in a detailed written contract that specifies window specifications, installation timeline, and warranty terms.

For a free estimate and transparent pricing on your window replacement project, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros - we provide clear contracts with reasonable deposit requirements.

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Q4

## Why do black vinyl window frames cost more than white ones?

**Black vinyl window frames typically cost 15-25% more than white frames** due to specialized manufacturing processes and material requirements needed to handle heat absorption and prevent warping.

The primary reason for the price difference is the **heat absorption challenge**. Black vinyl absorbs significantly more solar heat than white vinyl, which can cause the frame to expand, warp, or even soften in direct sunlight. To combat this, manufacturers must use specialized vinyl compounds with enhanced heat resistance and UV stabilizers. These premium materials and additives increase production costs.

**Manufacturing complexity** also drives up prices. Black vinyl requires more precise temperature control during the extrusion process and often needs multiple layers or special core materials to maintain structural integrity. Some manufacturers use a white or light-colored core with a black exterior layer to reduce heat transfer, which adds manufacturing steps and costs.

In Ottawa's climate, black vinyl windows face additional stress from our temperature extremes - from -30°C winters to +35°C summers with intense UV exposure. Quality black vinyl frames need superior weatherization to handle these conditions without fading, chalking, or becoming brittle over time.

**Market demand** plays a role too. White remains the most popular choice, allowing for larger production runs and economies of scale. Black and dark colors are specialty products with smaller production volumes, naturally increasing per-unit costs.

For Ottawa homeowners considering black vinyl windows, expect to pay an additional \$50-150 per window compared to white. However, the dramatic curb appeal and modern aesthetic often justify the premium. Quality black vinyl windows from reputable manufacturers will perform just as well as white ones when properly installed.

**For a free estimate on black or white vinyl windows for your Ottawa home, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros** - we'll help you weigh the aesthetic benefits against the cost difference.

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Q5

## I want to swap my sliding door for french doors - what's a ballpark cost in Ottawa?

**Replacing a sliding patio door with French doors typically costs \$3,000 to \$6,000 in Ottawa**, including removal of the old door, new French door installation, and finishing work.

The cost varies significantly based on the door quality and features you choose. **Basic vinyl or aluminum French doors** with standard glass run \$3,000-\$4,000 installed, while **premium fiberglass or wood French doors** with decorative glass, multi-point locking, and energy-efficient triple-pane glass can reach \$5,000-\$6,000. If you're adding sidelights or transoms, expect to add another \$1,000-\$2,000 to the project.

**Installation complexity affects pricing** since French doors require different framing than sliding doors. The existing opening may need structural modifications to accommodate the door swing and meet current building code requirements for egress. Most installations also include new interior and exterior trim, threshold work, and sometimes minor drywall repairs where the old door track was mounted.

**For Ottawa's climate**, invest in quality French doors with triple-pane glass and proper weatherstripping. French doors have more potential air leakage points than sliding doors, so professional installation with proper sealing is crucial for energy efficiency. Look for doors that meet ENERGY STAR requirements with a U-factor of 1.22 or lower - this also makes you eligible for Canada Greener Homes Grant rebates.

**The installation typically takes one day** for experienced installers, though complex structural work might extend to two days. Most window and door replacements in existing openings don't require permits in Ottawa, but your installer will confirm this based on your specific situation.

For a free estimate on your French door installation, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros to get pricing specific to your home's requirements.

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**Q6**

## **Can I get 0% financing on new windows in Ottawa or is that just a sales gimmick?**

**0% financing for windows is real and available in Ottawa, but it's important to understand how these programs actually work.** Many legitimate window companies offer genuine 0% financing through partnerships with financial institutions, though the terms and conditions matter significantly.

**How 0% financing typically works:** Most programs offer 0% interest for a promotional period (usually 6-24 months), after which regular interest rates apply if the balance isn't paid off. Some companies build the financing cost into their pricing, so you might pay slightly more upfront but get the convenience of monthly payments without interest charges during the promotional period.

**What to watch for:** The key is reading the fine print carefully. Legitimate 0% financing will have clear terms about the promotional period, what happens after it expires, and any penalties for late payments. Be wary if the quoted

price seems significantly higher than other estimates, as some companies inflate prices to offset the financing costs. Also check if there are setup fees, early payment penalties, or requirements for automatic payments.

**Ottawa market reality:** In Ottawa's competitive window market, several established companies offer genuine 0% financing programs, especially during slower seasons (fall/winter) or for larger projects. The Canada Greener Homes Grant can also help offset costs - up to \$5,000 for qualifying energy-efficient windows - which can make financing even more attractive.

**Smart approach:** Get multiple quotes with and without financing to compare true costs. Ask specifically about the promotional period length, what happens when it expires, and any fees involved. For a typical Ottawa home needing 10-15 windows (\$8,000-\$15,000), 0% financing for 12-18 months can genuinely help with cash flow without added cost if you can pay it off during the promotional period.

For transparent pricing and financing options on your window project, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros - we'll explain all costs and financing terms clearly upfront.

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Q7

## How much does it cost to replace just the glass instead of the whole window?

**Glass-only replacement typically costs \$150-\$400 per window in Ottawa**, but this option is only viable in specific situations and often not the most cost-effective choice for older windows.

**When glass-only replacement makes sense**, you're looking at situations where the window frame is in excellent condition - typically less than 10 years old with no air leaks, smooth operation, and intact weatherstripping. The cost breakdown includes the glass unit itself (\$100-\$250), labor for removal and installation (\$50-\$150), and any necessary glazing compound or gaskets. For standard double-pane units, expect to pay around \$200-\$300 per window, while triple-pane or specialty glass can push costs to \$350-\$500.

**However, glass-only replacement has significant limitations** in Ottawa's harsh climate. If your windows are more than 15 years old, the frames likely have efficiency issues that new glass won't solve. The window frame, weatherstripping, and operating mechanisms contribute significantly to energy performance and comfort. Additionally, many older windows use discontinued glass sizes or mounting systems, making glass replacement difficult or impossible.

**From a value perspective**, when glass replacement costs \$200-\$400 and a complete new window runs \$400-\$800 installed, the full replacement often provides better long-term value. New windows come with warranties, improved energy efficiency, and address all potential failure points - not just the glass. In Ottawa's Climate Zone 6, the energy savings from a complete window upgrade typically justify the additional cost within 5-7 years.

**For the best assessment of your specific situation**, have a licensed installer evaluate whether your window frames can support glass-only replacement and if it makes financial sense compared to full replacement.

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Q8

## Is argon gas between the panes actually worth it?

**Yes, argon gas fill is definitely worth it** - it's one of the most cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades you can get in a window, especially in Ottawa's climate.

**Argon gas significantly improves insulation performance** because it's denser than regular air and conducts less heat. In double-pane windows, argon fill can improve the insulation value by about 15-20%, while in triple-pane windows it provides an additional 10-15% improvement. This translates to real energy savings on your heating bills during Ottawa's long, cold winters.

**The cost difference is minimal** - most quality window manufacturers include argon fill as standard in their better product lines, adding only \$20-50 per window to the cost. Given that a typical Ottawa home can save \$200-400 annually on heating costs with properly insulated windows, the payback period is usually under two years.

**In Ottawa's Climate Zone 6, argon fill becomes even more valuable** because we experience temperature swings from -30°C to +35°C throughout the year. The improved insulation helps maintain consistent indoor temperatures and reduces condensation issues that can lead to mold or frame damage. Argon-filled windows also qualify more easily for ENERGY STAR certification and government rebates like the Canada Greener Homes Grant.

**One important note:** argon gas can slowly leak out over time (about 1% per year), but quality windows with proper seals will retain most of their argon for 15-20 years. The key is choosing windows from reputable manufacturers with good warranties on their gas fills.

For a free estimate on energy-efficient windows with argon fill, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros to discuss which options work best for your specific home and budget.

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Q9

## Are tilt-and-turn windows worth considering for my house?

**Tilt-and-turn windows can be an excellent choice for Ottawa homes**, offering unique ventilation options and superior energy efficiency, though they come with higher upfront costs and require careful consideration of your specific needs.

**Tilt-and-turn windows provide exceptional versatility** with their dual-opening mechanism. The tilt function allows the top of the window to angle inward for secure ventilation - perfect for Ottawa's variable weather when you want fresh air without fully opening the window. The turn function opens the entire sash inward like a door, providing maximum ventilation and easy cleaning from inside your home. This European-style design has gained popularity in Canada due to its superior air sealing and energy performance.

**For Ottawa's Climate Zone 6 conditions**, tilt-and-turn windows excel at energy efficiency. They typically feature triple-pane glass, superior weatherstripping, and multi-point locking systems that create exceptional air sealing. The inward-opening design means the sash compresses against the frame when closed, creating a tighter seal than traditional windows. This translates to better insulation performance and potential energy savings on heating costs during Ottawa's cold winters.

**The main considerations are cost and space requirements.** Tilt-and-turn windows typically cost 30-50% more than comparable casement or double-hung windows - expect \$800-\$1,500 per window installed in the Ottawa market. You'll also need adequate interior space for the sash to swing inward, which can interfere with window treatments or furniture placement. However, many homeowners find the superior ventilation control, security features, and energy performance justify the investment.

**These windows work particularly well** in bedrooms where you want secure nighttime ventilation, bathrooms needing moisture control, or any room where easy cleaning access is valuable. They're also excellent for homes near busy streets since the tilt function provides ventilation while maintaining security and noise reduction.

For a free consultation on whether tilt-and-turn windows suit your specific Ottawa home and needs, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros to discuss your options with experienced local installers.

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## Q10

### Do window prices go up in spring when everyone is renovating?

**Yes, window prices typically increase in spring and summer when demand peaks**, though the effect is more noticeable in installation scheduling and labor costs than in the windows themselves.

**Window material costs** remain relatively stable throughout the year since manufacturers set pricing annually. However, you'll see the biggest impact on **installation costs and availability**. Spring through early fall is peak renovation season in Ottawa, so licensed installers often have 4-8 week backlogs compared to 1-3 weeks in winter. Some contractors may charge premium rates during busy periods or offer discounts in slower months.

**The best time to buy windows in Ottawa** is actually late fall through early spring. You'll get better scheduling flexibility, potentially lower installation costs, and can often negotiate better deals when contractors are looking to fill their winter schedules. Plus, you'll be ready for the warmer weather when installation is more comfortable.

**Energy efficiency incentives** also play a role in timing. The Canada Greener Homes Grant and Enbridge rebates (up to \$5,000 each) are available year-round, but processing times can be longer during peak application periods in spring and summer.

For Ottawa's climate, **winter installation is perfectly feasible** for experienced installers. Modern installation techniques minimize heat loss during the process, and you'll start seeing energy savings immediately rather than waiting months for a spring installation slot.

**Want to avoid the spring rush?** Consider getting quotes now for winter or early spring installation. You'll likely get better pricing and scheduling, plus your new energy-efficient windows will be ready for next winter's heating bills.

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## Q11

### Is it cheaper to replace windows in winter or summer?

**Window replacement costs are generally lower in winter**, with potential savings of 10-20% compared to peak summer pricing. Winter is considered the off-season for window installers, leading to more competitive pricing and better availability.

**Seasonal pricing differences** occur because summer is peak renovation season when demand is highest. Most homeowners prefer warm weather projects, creating a supply-and-demand imbalance that drives up costs from May through September. Winter installations face less competition for contractor time, and many companies offer off-season discounts to maintain steady work through slower months.

**However, winter installation in Ottawa comes with trade-offs.** Cold weather installations require more careful planning and may take longer due to temperature considerations. Professional installers need to work quickly to minimize heat loss during the swap, and some sealants and caulks have temperature limitations. Weather delays are also more common, potentially extending project timelines.

**The optimal timing for Ottawa homeowners** is often late fall (October-November) or early spring (March-April). You'll still capture some off-season pricing while avoiding the harshest winter conditions. These shoulder seasons offer a good balance of cost savings and installation conditions.

**Energy efficiency considerations** make winter replacement particularly valuable despite the challenges. Old, drafty windows lose significant heat during Ottawa's cold months, so upgrading to triple-pane, Low-E windows can provide immediate energy savings that help offset installation costs.

For the best combination of pricing and installation conditions, request quotes in late fall for early spring installation. This timing allows you to secure off-season pricing while scheduling work during more favorable weather conditions.

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## Q12

### How much does it cost to replace all the windows in a 3-bedroom house in Ottawa?

**For a typical 3-bedroom house in Ottawa, expect to invest \$12,000 to \$20,000 for complete window replacement,** depending on the number of windows, quality level, and specific features you choose.

Most 3-bedroom homes have **12 to 18 windows** including bedrooms, living areas, kitchen, and bathrooms. The total cost breaks down to roughly \$800 to \$1,200 per window when you factor in materials, professional installation, disposal of old windows, and finishing work around each opening.

**Standard vinyl double-pane windows** typically run \$400-800 per window installed, making them the most budget-friendly option while still providing good energy performance. **Premium triple-pane windows with Low-E coatings** cost \$600-1,200 per window but offer superior insulation crucial for Ottawa's harsh winters. Specialty windows like bay windows, large picture windows, or custom shapes can push individual window costs to \$1,500-2,500 each.

**Ottawa's Climate Zone 6 requirements** make energy efficiency particularly important for your investment. Triple-pane windows with argon gas fill and Low-E coatings can reduce heating costs by 15-25% compared to older single-pane windows. Many homeowners also qualify for **Canada Greener Homes Grant rebates** up to \$5,000

when upgrading to ENERGY STAR certified windows, which require a U-factor of 1.22 or lower.

The installation process typically takes 2-3 days for a full house, with licensed installers ensuring proper air sealing and weatherproofing. Quality installation is crucial - even the best windows perform poorly if not properly sealed against Ottawa's temperature extremes.

**For a free estimate tailored to your specific home and window count, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros.** We can assess your current windows, recommend the best energy-efficient options for your budget, and provide accurate pricing based on your home's unique requirements.

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## Q13

### Are multi-point locking systems worth it for entry doors?

**Yes, multi-point locking systems are absolutely worth the investment for entry doors**, especially in Ottawa where security and energy efficiency are both important considerations. These systems provide significantly better security and weather sealing compared to standard single-point deadbolts.

#### Enhanced Security Benefits

Multi-point locks secure your door at three to five points along the frame - typically at the deadbolt location, plus additional points at the top and bottom of the door. This makes it extremely difficult for intruders to kick in or pry open the door, as they would need to defeat multiple locking points simultaneously. The distributed locking force also prevents the door frame from splitting under pressure, which is a common failure point with single deadbolts.

#### Energy Efficiency and Weather Sealing

In Ottawa's climate, multi-point systems provide superior weather sealing by pulling the door tightly against the weatherstripping at multiple points. This eliminates gaps that can cause drafts and energy loss, which is particularly valuable during our harsh winters. The improved seal also prevents moisture infiltration that can lead to ice buildup and frame damage.

#### Ottawa-Specific Considerations

Given Ottawa's temperature extremes and security concerns in urban areas, multi-point locks offer excellent value. They're standard on quality fiberglass and steel entry doors, and the added security can potentially reduce home insurance premiums. Most systems are operated with a single key or handle turn, so there's no added complexity for daily use.

#### Installation and Cost

Multi-point locking systems typically add \$200-500 to your entry door cost, but this represents excellent value for the security and energy benefits. Professional installation is essential to ensure proper alignment and operation - these systems require precise fitting to function correctly.

For a free estimate on entry doors with multi-point locking systems, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros. We can help you choose the right security level for your home and neighborhood.

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## Q14

## Should I pay more for a lifetime warranty on windows?

**Most "lifetime" window warranties aren't worth the premium cost** - they're often filled with exclusions and may not transfer to new homeowners, limiting their real-world value.

### Understanding Window Warranty Reality

A quality window manufacturer typically offers 10-20 year warranties on components like frames, hardware, and glass seal failure. These standard warranties usually cover the most common issues you'll encounter during the window's prime years. "Lifetime" warranties often exclude normal wear items like weatherstripping, hardware operation, and glass breakage - the very things most likely to need attention over decades.

The bigger consideration is the **manufacturer's reputation and longevity**. A lifetime warranty from a company that might not exist in 15 years provides little security. Established manufacturers like Pella, Andersen, or Milgard with solid 20-year warranties often provide better protection than unknown brands promising lifetime coverage.

### Ottawa Climate Considerations

In Ottawa's harsh climate with temperature swings from -30°C to +35°C, window components face significant stress. Quality materials and proper installation matter more than warranty length. A well-installed, quality double or triple-pane window should perform excellently for 20-25 years with minimal maintenance. Focus your budget on **triple-pane glass, quality frames, and professional installation** rather than extended warranty premiums.

### Smart Warranty Strategy

Look for warranties covering glass seal failure (the most expensive repair), frame integrity, and hardware function for at least 10-15 years. Ensure the warranty transfers to new homeowners if you plan to sell. Most importantly, choose windows from established manufacturers installed by licensed professionals - proper installation prevents more problems than any warranty can fix.

For a free consultation on quality window options with solid standard warranties, Ottawa Window Pros can help you evaluate the best value for your specific project and budget.

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**Q15**

## Are wood windows worth the maintenance hassle?

**Wood windows can be worth the maintenance for homeowners who value their beauty and performance, but they're definitely not the right choice for everyone.** The decision comes down to your priorities, budget, and

willingness to commit to regular upkeep.

**The maintenance reality** for wood windows in Ottawa's climate is significant. You'll need to inspect and touch up the finish annually, with full repainting or restaining every 3-5 years depending on exposure. Ottawa's freeze-thaw cycles, UV exposure, and moisture can be particularly hard on wood frames. Neglected wood windows can develop rot, warping, and air leaks that compromise both appearance and energy efficiency.

**However, wood windows offer unique benefits** that many homeowners find compelling. They provide superior insulation properties compared to vinyl or aluminum, can be painted any color and changed over time, and offer authentic character that's especially valuable in heritage homes. Quality wood windows also tend to have longer lifespans than vinyl when properly maintained - often 30-50 years versus 20-30 for vinyl.

**In Ottawa's market**, wood windows typically cost \$800-\$2,000+ per window installed, compared to \$400-\$800 for quality vinyl. The higher upfront cost, combined with ongoing maintenance expenses, means wood windows are generally best suited for homeowners who specifically want their aesthetic appeal and are committed to regular care.

**For most Ottawa homeowners**, modern vinyl or fiberglass windows offer better value - they provide excellent energy efficiency, require minimal maintenance, and still offer attractive styling options. Fiberglass windows can even mimic wood grain appearance without the maintenance requirements.

Want to explore your window options and see what works best for your specific situation and budget? We offer free consultations to help you make the right choice for your home.

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## Q16

### Are built-in blinds between the glass worth it?

**Built-in blinds between glass panes can be worth it for specific situations**, but they come with both significant advantages and important limitations that Ottawa homeowners should carefully consider.

**Built-in blinds offer excellent convenience and durability.** Since they're sealed between the glass panes, they never collect dust, can't be damaged by pets or children, and eliminate the need for regular cleaning. This makes them particularly appealing for hard-to-reach windows, patio doors, or homes with pets. The blinds are operated by a magnetic slider or twist mechanism on the window frame, providing smooth operation for years.

**However, there are notable drawbacks to consider.** If the blinds malfunction or the sealed glass unit fails, you'll need to replace the entire glass assembly, which can cost \$300-600 per window in the Ottawa market. The blind styles are also limited - typically just horizontal mini-blinds in white, beige, or gray. You won't have the design flexibility of traditional window treatments like custom curtains, shutters, or decorative blinds.

**For Ottawa's climate, built-in blinds work well with quality double or triple-pane windows.** They don't affect the window's energy efficiency since they're between the panes, and they won't interfere with the Low-E coatings or gas fills that are crucial for our cold winters. Many homeowners find them ideal for patio doors where traditional blinds can be cumbersome.

**Consider built-in blinds if you prioritize low maintenance and have pets or children**, but stick with traditional window treatments if you want design flexibility or worry about long-term repair costs. For a consultation on window options that include built-in blinds, Ottawa Window Pros can show you different manufacturers and help you weigh the pros and cons for your specific situation.

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## Q17

### How much does it cost to add a new window where there wasn't one before?

**Adding a new window where none existed before typically costs \$2,500 to \$6,000+ in Ottawa**, significantly more than replacing an existing window due to the structural work and permitting requirements involved.

The higher cost comes from several factors beyond just the window itself. **Structural modifications** are required to create the opening, which involves cutting through wall framing, adding proper headers and support beams, and ensuring the structural integrity of your home remains intact. This work requires careful planning and engineering, especially in load-bearing walls.

**Permitting and code compliance** add both time and cost to the project. New window openings require building permits from the City of Ottawa, and the work must meet Ontario Building Code requirements for structural support, insulation, and weatherproofing. The permit process typically takes 2-4 weeks and costs \$200-500, but ensures the work is done safely and legally.

The **installation process** is much more complex than a standard replacement. After obtaining permits, contractors must carefully cut the exterior siding and interior drywall, frame the new opening with proper headers, install the window with appropriate flashing and weatherproofing, then finish both interior and exterior surfaces. This often includes matching siding, trim work, and interior finishing like drywall repair and painting.

**Ottawa's climate** makes proper installation critical - inadequate weatherproofing or insulation around a new opening can lead to significant energy loss and moisture problems during our harsh winters. Quality triple-pane windows with proper installation are essential for new openings.

For a project of this scope, you'll want to work with experienced contractors who understand both structural requirements and proper weatherproofing techniques. **Want to discuss your specific project? We offer free consultations** to assess the feasibility and provide detailed estimates for new window installations.

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**Q18**

## **Are energy-efficient windows really worth the higher price tag?**

**Yes, energy-efficient windows are absolutely worth the investment in Ottawa's climate**, especially when you factor in long-term energy savings, comfort improvements, and potential rebates that can offset much of the upfront cost.

**The financial case is compelling.** In Ottawa's harsh winters, quality triple-pane windows with Low-E coatings can reduce your heating bills by 15-25% compared to older single or double-pane windows. For an average Ottawa home spending \$2,000-3,000 annually on heating, that's \$300-750 in yearly savings. Over the typical 20-25 year lifespan of quality windows, you're looking at \$6,000-18,000 in energy savings that often exceed the premium paid for efficient windows.

**Ottawa homeowners have significant rebate opportunities** that make the math even better. The Canada Greener Homes Grant offers up to \$5,000 for window upgrades, and Enbridge provides additional rebates up to \$5,000 for energy-efficient windows and doors. These programs can cover 30-50% of your window replacement costs, making premium triple-pane windows cost-competitive with basic double-pane options.

**Beyond energy savings, you'll notice immediate comfort improvements.** Energy-efficient windows eliminate cold drafts, reduce condensation problems common in Ottawa homes, and provide better sound insulation from traffic noise. The consistent indoor temperatures mean your furnace runs less frequently, extending its lifespan and reducing maintenance costs.

**For maximum value in Ottawa's Climate Zone 6,** look for ENERGY STAR certified windows with U-factors of 1.22 or lower, triple-pane glass, and argon gas fill. The sweet spot for most Ottawa homeowners is quality triple-pane vinyl or fiberglass windows in the \$600-900 range per window installed - offering excellent performance without premium pricing.

For a free estimate on energy-efficient window replacement and help navigating available rebates, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros to discuss your specific project and potential savings.

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## Are fiberglass doors worth the extra money over steel?

**Fiberglass doors are typically worth the extra investment over steel**, especially in Ottawa's harsh climate. The price difference of \$500-\$1,500 usually pays for itself through better performance and longevity.

**Energy efficiency** is where fiberglass really shines. Fiberglass has superior insulating properties compared to steel, which can conduct cold through the door frame. In Ottawa's winters, this means lower heating bills and better comfort. Steel doors often develop frost buildup on the interior surface during extreme cold snaps, while fiberglass maintains a more consistent interior temperature.

**Durability and maintenance** strongly favor fiberglass. Steel doors are prone to dents from impacts (kids' bikes, moving furniture, hail) and can rust over time, especially around the bottom edge where salt and moisture accumulate. Fiberglass doors resist denting, won't rust, and maintain their appearance much longer. The initial finish on quality fiberglass doors can last 10-15 years before needing refinishing, compared to 3-5 years for steel.

**Weather resistance** is crucial in Ottawa's climate extremes. Fiberglass handles temperature swings from -30°C to +35°C without warping or expanding like steel can. Steel doors can also develop condensation issues that lead to frame rot over time, while fiberglass stays dimensionally stable.

The main advantage of steel doors is the lower upfront cost - typically \$1,500-\$2,500 installed versus \$2,000-\$4,000 for fiberglass. However, when you factor in energy savings, reduced maintenance, and longer lifespan, fiberglass usually provides better value over 15-20 years.

For a free estimate comparing steel and fiberglass options for your specific situation, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros to discuss which door type best fits your budget and performance needs.

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**Disclaimer:** This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Window Pros. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority before starting any construction or renovation project. Information is current as of March 15, 2026 and may change. Visit [ottawawindowinstall.ca](http://ottawawindowinstall.ca) for the latest answers.