

OTTAWA WINDOW PROS

Seasonal & Timing

When to install, winter installs, and planning window work around Ottawa's seasons

10 Expert Answers from Construction Brain

ottawawindowinstall.ca/construction-brain

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Q1

Should I wait for the spring sales or buy windows now?

Great question that comes up a lot from Ottawa homeowners. The honest answer is: **buying in late fall or winter often gets you better pricing and faster installation than waiting for spring.**

Here's why the timing works in your favour right now.

Winter is the slow season for installers, which means you have more negotiating leverage, faster scheduling, and more attention from installation crews who aren't juggling a full spring backlog. Many Ottawa window companies — including Ottawa Window Pros — offer off-season pricing to keep crews busy through the colder months. The "spring sale" you're waiting for is often just a return to regular pricing with a promotional label on it.

Lead times are a real consideration. Custom windows are manufactured to order, and spring is when every homeowner who "waited" places their order at the same time. Lead times that are 2-4 weeks in winter can stretch to 6-10 weeks by April and May. If you want new windows installed before the heat of summer, ordering in January or February is actually the smarter move.

Ottawa winters are hard on old windows. If your windows are already showing signs of failure — condensation between panes, drafts, frost on the glass, or ice on the interior sill — every month you wait is money leaving through those windows on your heating bill. Ottawa sits in **Climate Zone 6**, and a single drafty window can meaningfully impact your furnace load.

That said, if your windows are in decent shape and you're simply upgrading for aesthetics or energy efficiency, waiting a few weeks for a specific promotion isn't going to hurt you. Just don't assume spring sales represent a significant discount — they rarely do compared to what a good installer will offer you in the off-season.

For a free estimate and honest off-season pricing, reach out to Ottawa Window Pros — we can give you a real number to compare against whatever spring promotions you see later.

Q2

How far ahead should I book window installation if I want them done in spring?

For spring window installation in Ottawa, you should book **2 to 4 months in advance** — meaning January through February is the ideal time to secure your spot for April or May installation.

Spring is one of the busiest seasons for window and door installers in Ottawa. Homeowners who waited out the winter want work done before summer, and contractors fill up quickly. The most experienced installers with strong reputations tend to book out the fastest, so waiting until March or April often means settling for whoever is still available — or pushing your project into summer.

Booking in January or February gives you several advantages. You'll have more flexibility to choose your preferred installation dates, and you'll have time to properly select products without feeling rushed. Custom or specialty windows — like bay windows, bow windows, or non-standard sizes — can take **4 to 8 weeks to manufacture and deliver**, so early booking ensures your windows arrive on time for your scheduled install date.

There's also a practical financial benefit to booking early. Some installers offer **off-season pricing or promotions** during the winter months when demand is lower. Locking in your project in January or February can sometimes save you money compared to booking during the spring rush.

If you're considering **energy efficiency upgrades** like triple-pane or ENERGY STAR certified windows, early booking also gives you time to explore the **Canada Greener Homes Grant** and ensure your chosen products meet eligibility requirements before installation day.

If you already know you want spring installation, now is a great time to reach out. Request a quote through Ottawa Window Pros now and an installer can talk you through product options, lead times and pricing — so you're not scrambling when the weather warms up.

Q3

Do window prices typically jump up at the start of the year?

Window prices do tend to increase at the start of the year, though the timing and size of increases can vary depending on market conditions, manufacturer pricing cycles, and material costs.

Most window manufacturers release updated pricing in January or February, which is when installers typically see new price lists take effect. These annual adjustments usually reflect increases in raw material costs (vinyl, glass, aluminum), labour, and shipping. In recent years, supply chain pressures have made these increases more noticeable — typically ranging from **3% to 8% annually**, though this varies by manufacturer and product line.

The Ottawa market follows the same general pattern. Because the winter months (January through March) are slower for window installations, some contractors and suppliers offer **winter pricing incentives** to keep business moving during the off-season. This can sometimes offset or delay the impact of manufacturer price increases for homeowners who book early in the year.

If you're planning a window replacement project, **locking in a quote before year-end** or in early January can sometimes help you secure the previous year's pricing — though this depends entirely on the specific contractor and supplier. It's always worth asking whether a quote is valid through a price change date.

The best approach is to get your quotes now, compare them, and ask each installer how long their pricing is guaranteed. If you're ready to move forward on a window replacement project in Ottawa, feel free to **request a free estimate from Ottawa Window Pros** — we're happy to walk you through current pricing and any available incentives.

Are there good end-of-year clearance deals on windows worth waiting for?

Yes, there are often good end-of-year clearance deals on windows, but timing your purchase requires balancing savings against practical considerations.

Many window manufacturers and suppliers do offer clearance pricing in late fall and winter to move inventory before the new year. You might find **10-20% discounts** on select window styles, discontinued models, or overstock items. Some manufacturers also run year-end promotions to meet annual sales targets.

However, **installation timing** is the bigger consideration in Ottawa. While you can purchase windows in December or January, installation typically needs to wait until spring due to our harsh winters. Installing windows in freezing temperatures creates challenges with sealants, caulking, and worker safety. Most professional installers prefer temperatures above 5°C for optimal installation conditions.

The sweet spot is often purchasing windows during winter clearance sales for spring installation. This gives you access to clearance pricing while ensuring proper installation conditions. You'll want to book your installation early though, as spring is the busiest season for window contractors in Ottawa.

Energy efficiency rebates can provide better savings than clearance deals. The Canada Greener Homes Grant offers up to \$5,000 for qualifying window upgrades, and these programs typically run year-round. ENERGY STAR certified windows (U-factor 1.22 or lower) are required for most rebate programs.

For the best value, compare clearance pricing against current rebate opportunities and factor in installation timing. Want to discuss your specific project and timing options? Request quotes through Ottawa Window Pros at a couple of points in the year — pricing moves with the season, and comparing is the only way to see it.

What happens if a cold snap hits right during my scheduled window installation?

Cold weather can definitely impact window installation, but experienced installers have strategies to work safely in Ottawa's winter conditions. Most professional installers can work in temperatures down to about -15°C, though they may need to adjust their schedule or methods.

During a cold snap, your installer will likely reschedule if temperatures drop below their safe working threshold. Working with windows in extreme cold creates several risks - the sealants and caulking don't cure

properly, workers' dexterity is compromised, and your home loses heat rapidly through the open rough opening. Quality installers prioritize proper installation over meeting deadlines, because a rushed winter install can lead to air leaks and energy loss for years to come.

If the installation must proceed during cold weather, professional installers use specific cold-weather techniques. They'll work on one window at a time to minimize heat loss, use temporary plastic sheeting to seal openings quickly, and may bring portable heaters to keep sealants at proper application temperatures. The key is having your installer use cold-weather rated sealants and allowing proper cure time, which may mean longer installation days.

In Ottawa's climate, late fall through early spring installations require extra planning. Many homeowners schedule window replacements for spring or fall specifically to avoid winter complications. However, emergency replacements can't always wait for perfect weather. A good installer will be honest about weather limitations and work with you to find the best solution.

For your peace of mind, confirm your installer's cold weather policies when booking. Ask about their temperature thresholds, rescheduling policies, and cold-weather installation techniques. For a free estimate that includes discussion of seasonal timing considerations, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros.

Q6

Should I order my windows now in February for spring installation?

Yes, ordering windows in February for spring installation is actually smart timing. You'll avoid the spring rush and ensure your project gets scheduled when you want it.

Lead times for quality windows typically run 4-8 weeks, depending on the manufacturer and whether you're choosing standard sizes or custom configurations. February ordering puts you perfectly positioned for April or May installation when the weather consistently stays above freezing. Many homeowners wait until March or April to start thinking about windows, which can push installation into summer when contractors are busiest.

Ottawa's climate makes spring the ideal installation season. You want to avoid winter installation when possible due to temperature fluctuations and the challenge of keeping your home warm during the work. Spring installation also gives you the full summer to enjoy improved energy efficiency and comfort before next winter arrives.

Ordering early often provides cost advantages too. Many window manufacturers and installers offer better pricing during their slower winter months. You'll also have more flexibility in scheduling and won't feel rushed into

decisions. This timing allows for proper planning if any structural work is needed or if you discover issues once the old windows are removed.

For your Ottawa project, focus on triple-pane windows with Low-E coatings to handle our harsh winters. Make sure your installer carries WSIB coverage and liability insurance - proper installation is crucial for performance and warranty coverage.

For a free estimate on your spring window replacement project, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros. Request quotes through Ottawa Window Pros now and you can settle on product and hold an installation slot for spring.

What's the typical wait time for windows during the busy spring season?

Spring is definitely the busiest season for window installation in Ottawa, with typical wait times ranging from 4-8 weeks for custom orders during peak season (April through June).

The spring rush happens because homeowners want their windows installed before summer, and many are using winter months to plan their projects. **Custom-ordered windows** typically take 3-4 weeks to manufacture, then you need to factor in installation scheduling. During busy periods, quality installers often book 2-4 weeks out for installation appointments.

Stock windows can significantly reduce wait times if they match your opening sizes. Many suppliers keep popular sizes in inventory, which can cut your timeline to 1-2 weeks. However, exact size matches aren't always available, especially for older Ottawa homes with non-standard openings.

Ottawa's climate creates additional urgency in spring - homeowners want energy-efficient windows installed before the hot summer months when air conditioning costs spike. This seasonal demand, combined with the short construction season, creates the spring bottleneck.

Planning ahead is crucial for spring installations. Ordering windows in February or March gives you the best chance of April or May installation. Many experienced installers recommend fall ordering for spring installation to guarantee your preferred timeline.

If you're planning a spring window replacement project, getting quotes and placing orders by early March typically ensures installation before the summer heat arrives. For current availability and scheduling, it's worth checking with local installers about their specific timelines.

Is fall actually a good time to replace windows before winter hits?

Yes, fall is actually one of the best times to replace windows before winter, though you'll want to get started soon to beat the cold weather and busy contractor schedules.

Fall window replacement offers several key advantages. You can address any drafts or energy loss issues before heating season begins, potentially saving hundreds on your winter energy bills. The moderate temperatures make installation more comfortable for workers and reduce the risk of extreme weather delays. Plus, you'll have time to properly test your new windows' performance before the harsh Ottawa winter sets in.

In Ottawa's climate, timing is especially important because our winters can be brutal with temperatures dropping to -30°C or lower. Getting energy-efficient triple-pane windows installed in October or early November means you'll immediately benefit from improved insulation during the coldest months. Many homeowners notice a significant difference in comfort and heating costs right away.

The practical considerations work in your favor too. Contractors typically have better availability in fall compared to spring's rush season, and you may find better pricing before the year-end rush. However, once temperatures consistently drop below -10°C, installation becomes more challenging due to sealant curing issues and worker safety concerns.

For Ottawa homes, focus on high-performance windows with U-factors of 1.22 or lower to meet ENERGY STAR requirements. Triple-pane windows with low-E coatings and argon fill are ideal for our Climate Zone 6 conditions. Proper installation and air sealing are crucial - even the best windows won't perform if poorly installed.

Start planning now if you're considering fall installation. Get quotes lined up soon, as the best contractors book up quickly for fall projects. For a free estimate on energy-efficient window replacement that will keep your home comfortable all winter, request a quote from Ottawa Window Pros.

Q9

Do the Greener Homes rebate funds ever run out before the end of the year?

Yes, the Canada Greener Homes Grant funding can run out before the end of the program year, and this has happened in previous years when demand exceeded the allocated budget.

The federal government sets aside a specific amount of funding each year for the Greener Homes Grant program. When applications reach the funding limit, new applications are typically placed on a waitlist or the program temporarily stops accepting new applications until the next fiscal year's funding becomes available. This usually happens on a first-come, first-served basis based on when complete applications are submitted.

In Ottawa's market, we've seen periods where homeowners had to wait several months for funding to become available again. The program has been popular because it offers up to \$5,000 for eligible home energy upgrades, including window and door replacements that meet ENERGY STAR requirements (U-factor of 1.22 or lower for windows).

The timing varies each year depending on uptake and federal budget allocations. Typically, funding is most constrained in late fall and early winter when homeowners rush to complete projects before year-end. Spring and early summer usually have better funding availability as new fiscal year budgets are released.

For window and door projects in Ottawa, it's smart to start the pre-retrofit EnerGuide evaluation early in the year if you're planning upgrades. The evaluation must be completed before any work begins, and there can be waiting periods for both the initial assessment and the post-retrofit verification.

If you're considering energy-efficient window replacement this year, getting your EnerGuide evaluation scheduled sooner rather than later helps ensure you can access the rebate funding when it's available.

Do window companies actually offer better deals in winter when they're not as busy?

Yes, many window companies do offer better deals during winter months, typically from December through February when demand is lowest. However, the savings aren't always as dramatic as some companies advertise.

Winter pricing advantages come from several factors. Installation crews have lighter schedules, so companies are more willing to negotiate on labor costs to keep their teams working. Manufacturers often offer contractor incentives during slow periods, and companies may clear out inventory before new product lines arrive in spring. You might see discounts of 10-20% on materials and installation, plus more flexible scheduling.

In Ottawa's market, winter deals are common but come with trade-offs. Installation becomes more challenging in sub-zero temperatures - crews work slower, and some materials become brittle. Interior work like measuring and ordering can happen anytime, but actual installation may need to wait for milder weather (above -15°C for most quality installations). Many companies will take winter orders at discounted rates but schedule installation for early spring.

The best winter strategy is getting quotes and signing contracts during slow months while negotiating spring installation dates. This gives you winter pricing with optimal installation conditions. Emergency replacements can't wait for seasons, but planned upgrades benefit from this timing.

Quality considerations matter more than timing - a properly installed window in spring will outperform a rushed winter installation. Focus on finding experienced installers who understand Ottawa's climate demands, whether you're buying in January or July.

Request a free quote through Ottawa Window Pros at a quieter time of year and compare - scheduling flexibility is often where the saving actually is.

Find a Window Installation Contractor

Ottawa Window Install connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://justynrookcontracting.com>:

- 613Bins ?
- RenoMotion Inc. ?
- Renovo Construction ?

View all windows-doors contractors ?

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 October 11, 2026 and may change. Visit ottawawindowinstall.ca for the latest answers.