

Window, screen advances enable big A/C savings

We talk constantly about protecting your windows to increase energy efficiency and the indoor comfort level. By shading and protecting your windows, you can save up to 25 percent of the cost in operating your air-conditioning unit.

In an effort to help you select the best window treatment for your home and lifestyle, let's look at the most effective ways to protect and shade your windows.

High-quality windows

Windows are no place to skimp when purchasing items for the home. I recommend buying the most expensive window you can afford, even at the expense of most other energy-saving items, such as additional attic insulation. I prefer wood windows because they do not conduct heat like aluminum, and vinyl does not hold up to UV rays too well. However, wood also deteriorates in the Arizona sun. So, aluminum-clad wood windows work the best for two reasons:

- Because the frame is not solid aluminum, the heat transfer is reduced considerably.

- Because the wood is wrapped in aluminum, it does not deteriorate or become sun-scorched.

Even the less-than-ideal window must be dual-paned. The increased R-value, noise reduction and heat reduction are incredibly significant when opting up from a single-pane to a dual-pane window. The effectiveness of a dual-pane window depends greatly on how much space is between the two panes of glass. Do not accept anything less than five-eighths of an inch. If you opt for less, there is not enough of insulating air space to make a difference.



on the house

rosie romero

Special for The Republic

Sunscreens

The function of a sunscreen is to prevent UV rays from reaching your windows. With today's products and technology, you can achieve up to a 90 percent reduction in heat gain through windows and prevent color fading to your interior.

Sunscreens are so effective that the average return on investment is only two years, according to the Salt River Project.

Sunscreens work in three ways:

- **Shading efficiency** — the amount of shade created between the screen and exterior pane of glass.

- **Reflectivity** — the ability of the screen to reflect the sun's rays away from the window, which keeps heat from touching the glass.

- **Absorption** — the heat that is absorbed and held by the screen material, then dispersed back into the air and away from the glass.

Window film

Although sunscreens do a great job of diminishing heat gain, they can have a darkening effect. Some homeowners may find that their homeowners association does not allow sunscreens visible from the street.

Window film can help with both of these concerns, and with new advances in technology, more and more homeowners are happy with the outcome.

Like sunscreens, window film can reduce the fading of furnishings and other items in the home, significantly reduce heat gain, lower energy bills and minimize glare. Some homeowners

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Like sunscreens, window film can reduce the fading of furnishings and other items in the home, significantly reduce heat gain, lower energy bills and minimize glare. Some homeowners have shied away from window film because of the "mirror effect" created by some films, but highly effective non-reflective films are now readily available. A clear film that is nearly unnoticeable on windows also is now available. V-Kool is the only proven clear, non-reflective film on the market today.

With all of the new technology and effective options available to homeowners, it is not necessary for any Arizonan to sweat through the summer while indoors. Find what's best for your home today and enjoy the rest of the summer.

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A \$5.00 Value

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