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FOCUS ON BUSINESS

New windows are a good investment

New windows are a great way to enhance both your interior and exterior decor. Aside from the aesthetic quality, there are many benefits to installing new windows.

These days, more home owners are installing more energy-efficient doors and windows, including a new weatherproof, vinyl window that delivers higher efficiency. The new window is triple-paned and can outperform an R-40 wall.

Rated as a high efficiency window by Energy Canada, this vinyl window features argon gas between the panes and a low-e coating on the glass itself. The window is manufactured in Canada and comes with a full lifetime warranty on parts and labour (not pro-rated).

ALL WINDOWS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

There is a popular misconception that all windows are created equal. In fact, there are many differences between poor, good and high quality windows. Window quality is measured by the thickness of its vinyl, design, styles, spacer types, glass types, weather stripping hardware and manufacturing tolerances.

"At Encore Home Improvements we take pride in explaining these differences and educating the consumer so that he can make an informed buying decision," says Mike Montecalvo, co-owner of Encore Home Improvements. "We provide the customer with a worksheet to compare our products and service with other window companies."

Another key benefit is the safety and protection that quality windows offer homeowners. Some windows are available with laminated glass and safety locks for added protection.

A LIFETIME WARRANTY ON WINDOWS

When you purchase windows from Encore Home Improvements, you receive more than just a quality product at a competitive price. Encore also stands behind its products and workmanship with a complete lifetime warranty on parts, labour (non prorated).

A member of the Siding and Window Dealers Association of Canada - Encore holds a license and is fully insured. The company also offers bank financing and accepts all major credit cards for added convenience.

Encore Home Improvements recently expanded its product line to include a new series of quality vinyl shutters and a home security system. The new line of vinyl shutters, manufactured by Vinylbilt, is durable, attractive and maintenance-free.

The home security systems is monitored by Microtec and compliments Encore's window replacements which offer safety glass, heavy duty window locks and safety latches.

All staff at Encore are certified by SAWDAC, a national organization which trains people using the latest techniques, and the Better Business Bureau. Installers have also been trained to complete different finishing techniques.

Installers aren't the only people who have received excellent training. The sales people have also been trained and follow a strict code of ethics. To the customer, this means a high degree of customer satisfaction - without the high pressure sales.

Encore Home Improvements is located at
450 Alden Rd. For details call
(905) 470-0750.

John Bouwmeister Contracting Ltd. has a passion for excellence

Aristotle defined excellence as something that we repeatedly do, not "as an act, but as a habit."

John and Catherine Bouwmeister can identify with that definition. The Markham couple operate John Bouwmeister Contracting Ltd., a company dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in home improvements and office renovations big and small.

Mr. Bouwmeister learned carpentry in his native Holland before moving to Canada and

starting his own business in 1967. For the past 30 years, he has tackled everything from installing doors and windows to designing and constructing his own Victorian-style home.

"We provide a consistently high level of workmanship for all types of jobs," says Mr. Bouwmeister, whose company was voted the Best Contractor in the 1999 Economist & Sun's Readers' Choice survey.

"We believe that if it's worth doing, it's worth doing well."

In 1985, Mr. Bouwmeister had retractable fabric awnings by Suncool installed in his Markham home. He was so impressed with the product that he decided to become an authorized Suncool Awnings dealer.

"The benefits of owning Suncool Awnings were evident from the beginning," says Catherine Bouwmeister. "We saw this as a great opportunity to sell and install a quality product to other homeowners throughout the Markham area."

A European design, Suncool Awnings are retractable, self-storing, self-supporting and available in custom made sizes ranging from seven feet up to 50 feet. In addition to their styling and flexibility, Suncool awnings block up to 77 per cent of the sun's heat, 99 per cent of ultraviolet rays and can reduce interior temperatures by seven to 15 degrees Fahrenheit. They can be easily installed on patios and windows.

Suncool Awnings also protect the sun's deadly rays from damaging drapes, floors, broadloom and furniture. Each awning has its own self-storage unit that protects the fabric from the elements. The unit can be left up during the winter and can be easily taken down or moved to another home.

The awnings can be retracted manually, electronically or by sun and wind sensor. They come with a five year warranty on the unit, mechanisms, mildew and fading.

Customers have the option of shopping for Suncool Awnings in the comfort and convenience of their own home with a special shop-at-home service. Product pictures and samples are brought directly to your home.

John Bouwmeister Contracting Ltd. is fully licensed, bonded and insured. The company provides all installations themselves. "If you want to experience excellence in home improvements or office renovations at a fair price, or require more information about Suncool Awnings, call the professionals at (905) 294-1798."



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