

# TOTAL HOME

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## Spring is a great time to change your view

By DANIEL ASPELL

One of the most popular reasons for replacing the windows in a home is energy efficiency, as the new styles are up to 70 per cent better at sealing in the indoor temperature while repelling what's outside. But new windows do much more, adding beauty and monetary value to your home. If it is time to replace those rattling panes in your castle, you have a lot of options to choose from, in a wide range of prices.

If you've got the budget to go for a whole-house window retrofit, congratulations. However, that's an impractical choice for the average homeowner, who usually spreads out window replacement over a period of time. It's best to start with the primary place or reason for a replacement, whether it be to add curb appeal and value to the front picture window, or to get better insulated windows in the bedrooms.

There are a few companies, when seen on a Realtor's listing sheet, that make potential homebuyers take notice. Their names are virtually an assurance of quality, but usually you'll have to pay more for their prestige.

If your budget doesn't include custom window replacement, don't despair. You can turn an ordinary picture window into a thing of contemporary charm very easily, and with minimal expense. Some companies make add-on grilles that will turn a plain glass window into a multi-paned look in minutes.

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Their flexible grilles and grids allow you to attach on either side of the glass, seemingly custom-fit panes to any window, greatly enhancing the look of any window in your home. Once in place, these flexible grids can be easily removed for cleaning or changing the look of the window.

They may not offer any change in the sealant properties of your windows, but they'll certainly change the look.

With new or old windows, any update will definitely change the look and value of your home. If you don't have anything else planned this spring, look at this as a window of opportunity.

For the best results on window replacement or upgrades, see your local window professionals.

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