**SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE** 



# TOPTHREE EXTERIOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS FOR SPRING

Spring on Long Island means warmer temperatures and lots of outdoor home improvement projects. Some of the top exterior renovations with the highest return on investment are new windows and doors, roofing and siding. To help you make the right choice in your exterior improvements, enhance curb appeal and positively impact resale, Newsday Brand360 and Tri-State Window Factory offer the following expert advice and information.



# When to Replace Your Windows SPRING CHECKLIST

### ARE YOUR WINDOWS...

### HARD TO OPERATE?

If your current windows don't lift, swing or slide easily, or if they are simply a hassle to open, it may be time to replace or repair.

### FOGGY?

Condensation on or in your windows that results in a fuzzy or clouded view is a sign a new window is in order.

### **SINGLE PANE?**

These don't offer the same level of insulation as double or triple pane windows and can cost you more in both heating and cooling bills.

### HARD TO MAINTAIN?

New windows are designed for easier maintenance and do not require putting up and taking down storm windows.

### IN DISREPAIR?

Wood windows can suffer from time and the elements. If you notice rot, new vinyl alternatives may be an easier-to-maintain option.

### **INSECURE?**

Air leaks, water filtration, thermal leaks and insect intrusions are all signs you need to replace your window(s).

### FADING YOUR FURNITURE?

If your furniture and rugs are becoming faded from sun damage it means your windows are not doing the job of keeping UV rays out of your house.

Replacement windows can dramatically improve your home's appearance and offer a host of benefits including smoother operation and easier cleaning, lower maintenance and noise, better protection from the elements and savings on utility bills.

### What to Know When Replacing Windows & Doors

ADVICE FROM THE PROFESSIONALS



Windows are the face of the home and should benefit from both curb appeal and energy savings. To ensure you pick the right product and more importantly, the right installer, the experts at Tri-State Windows offer the following tips when considering replacement windows and doors:

### **MANUFACTURING MATTERS**

Where and how your windows and doors are manufactured makes a big difference in quality and longevity. Select a local, family-owned and operated one-stop shop, like Tri-State Window Factory, so you are dealing with a business whose reputation matters in the community.

### **CHOICE MATTERS**

Select a company that boasts a wide variety of window frames and glass for replacement windows and doors. Hand-crafted fabrication means customers have unique choices – whether in construction, grids, colors or finishes. Adding practicality to performance, look for options like built-in and roll-up mini-blinds in windows and glass doors, so you can control light levels and privacy.

### SIZE MATTERS

Getting your windows and doors sized correctly is essential to proper installation and use. Only work with a company that uses highly experienced, factory-trained measurers to guarantee exact sizing so that windows fit right the first time.



### **ENERGY MATTERS**

Homeowners no longer have to sacrifice elegance for the environment when it comes to replacement windows. Energy efficient windows that are manufactured for maximum efficiency, better insulation and protection against sunlight, moisture, and wind are available in a variety of styles and colors.



Look for the Energy Star® label. When you see the Energy Star label, you know that the window was manufactured by an Energy Star partner, was independently tested and certified, and has met strict energy efficiency guidelines.

### **VINYL MATTERS**

Vinyl is by far the most popular choice for window replacement, and with good reason. Vinyl replacement windows are cost-effective, maintenance-free and long lasting. But, — not all vinyl windows are created equal in construction and quality. You want a less conductive vinyl to better insulate and prevent warping — like modified PVC thermoplastic that is reinforced with rust-proof aluminum for a more solid frame.

### **GLASS MATTERS**

When it comes to glass for your replacement windows, the thicker the better. Most companies offer glass that is 1/16" thick but look for the 1/8" thickness that Tri-State offers. Choose windows with low-e (emissivity) glass, a specially-coated glass to keep homes warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Also check the U-factor – the measure of the window's insulation and resistance to heat gain or loss. The lower the U-factor the better.

### **INSULATION MATTERS**

The right replacement window is a high-performance window with superior construction and insulation.

Check out the window frame itself. The thicker the frame the better and frame-to-frame, sash-to-frame and glass-to-frame connections must be welded airtight to prevent leakage.

Go for the best insulation. Windows that are reinforced with rust-proof aluminum for strength, filled with foam and insulated with Argon or Krypton gas boost insulation value and substantially reduce utility bills.



### UNIQUE OFFERINGS MATTER

You'll also want to choose a company that offer unique features in their windows and doors; smart and exclusive improvements that you can't find anywhere else. That means windows customtailored to your specific sizes and shapes, more choices in internal and external window grids, autolocks for convenience, security and peace of mind, and roll-up, retractable screens.

### REPUTATION MATTERS

With the variety of choices available today, who you choose to supply and install your windows is just as important as the product you choose. You want a reputable company where you can talk to the principals, deal with trained employees, and know that all your needs are met: from installation to warranty coverage.

## OTHER EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS WITH HIGH ROI



### Raze the Roof

Roofing is another Springtime replacement you may need to consider this year. A typical asphalt singled roof lasts 20-25 years on average. But, if your roof was installed over existing layers of shingles, you may want to consider a new roof after 15-20 years of use. At any time you find yourself with a roof that sags, sports unwanted plant growth (like moss), leaky flashing or missing or curling shingles, it's time for a new roof.



### Siding with Style

Siding is one of the first things you see when you approach your home. Today, siding comes in a variety of colors and textures to makeover your home in style. Plus, you can mix and match textures, such as vinyl and faux stone, for a more dramatic appearance.

SELECTING THE RIGHT PARTNER

The success of any exterior home improvement will be reliant on the contractor or company you choose to partner with. To make sure you are making the right choice:

Solicit recommendations from family and friends.

Look online for contractors or companies in your area and research online, by phone and then in person.

Look for a one-stop shop. For instance, if you are replacing windows, opt for a vendor that can sell you the windows, build them, install them and guarantee them.

Determine your budget and request a shop-at-home consultation.

TRISTATE
WINDOW FACTORY CORP.

1.800.645.4568 | tristatewindowfactory.com