

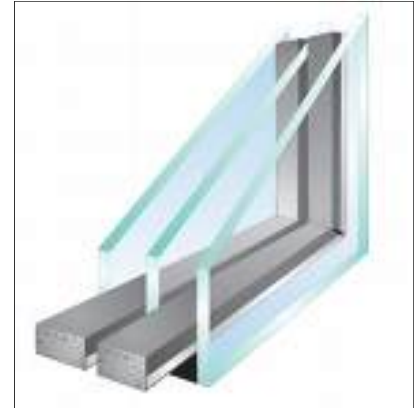
# Triple-Pane Glass In Residential Windows

## Pros and Cons

Consumers are inundated with lofty sales pitches from window companies promising 40% to 60% “Guaranteed Energy Savings” when you buy their triple-pane windows.

We encourage consumers to read the “fine print” on such claims. You’ll easily find that these promises are nothing more than sales gimmicks designed to make you think you are radically changing the comfort and energy usage of your home with their new windows.

When shopping for replacement windows, the first thing to consider is that *whole window performance is the key.*



### WHOLE WINDOW PERFORMANCE

**Energy efficiency does not come from individual components**, but from whole window performance. Many companies tout specific features of their window components when discussing energy efficiency. Top manufacturers focus on the big picture—the whole window performance. They pay particular attention to the window frame and glass—critical components for energy efficiency. When comparing window energy efficiency, the overall unit performance as tested, certified and labeled per the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC), is most important. They also place enormous significance on complete, professional installation, and warrant it in writing—because a good window can only perform well if it’s installed correctly.



*Good glass with a bad frame material is a recipe for seal failure and a disaster for homeowners.*



*Careful consideration is necessary when selecting replacement windows for your home.*

### Triple-Pane Glass

#### Pros (Benefits)

Improves center of glass insulation  
Improves energy efficiency marginally

#### Cons (Problems)

Loss of visible light transmittance  
Loss of clear views to the outdoors  
Significantly larger frames required to support weight of glass.  
Smaller glass viewing area  
Usually requires an internal metal support in the frame which can lower the frame's R-value.  
Chunkier looking than traditional windows. Won't match architecture.  
Significantly higher risk of glass seal failure.  
Because of the reduced glass area, may result in building code violations by reducing window egress.  
Harder to operate.  
Usually costs much more.

*Today's window technology allows you to get the comfort and performance without the problems associated with triple-pane glass. Before you buy, it's worth doing your homework.*