

# Window Attachments



Any time is a good time to install window attachments! Shades or drapes should be well fitted to reduce drafts. For example, drapes should reach the floor.



New windows (double and triple pane) can be very expensive. Window attachments can be budget friendly.



Have you installed window attachments? Share your story! We would love to hear about your experience.



Contact CFREE, a working group of the Lincoln Green Energy Committee, at [lincolngreencoach@gmail.com](mailto:lincolngreencoach@gmail.com) to learn more and connect with a coach.

Windows are often the weakest link in a building's thermal envelope. About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through windows. In cooling seasons, about 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the space as heat.

Window attachments can be interior or exterior. Examples include storm windows, blinds, drapes, quilts, films, and inserts. A well fitted window attachment has the potential for reducing heating and cooling energy use by 20%.

## Ready to Go?

- Window coverings such as shades and drapes only work if used actively. One study found that 75% remained in the same position every day! On a sunny, winter day, open the window coverings to allow the sun to heat the room. Close the coverings at night to retain the heat. This also supports dark sky efforts! In the summer, open window coverings that receive indirect sunlight but keep the south-facing ones closed.
- Window inserts (installed inside) and storm windows (installed outside) are clear and don't require daily operation. The most effective inerts will be double-paned or have a low-e (metal oxide coating) to maximize their ability to reduce heat transfer.
- Cellular shades are more effective than vinyl blinds for retaining heat. Look for Energy Star rated shades on the [Attachments Energy Rating Council \(AERC\) website](#). Cellular shades can be installed to move horizontally on sliding glass doors.

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