

Do-It-Yourself vs Professional Window & Door Installation



Do it Yourself

CONS

Time
Depending on experience, it could take 3 to 5 times longer for a do-it-yourselfer to install a window than a professional installer.



Assistance:
Most window installations require at least 2 people to get things in place safely and correctly.



Damage
Personal injury:
Most do-it-yourselfers will be prone to injury unless they have specialized training for lifting heavy materials, working with heights, and specialized tools.



Product damage:
If you break it, you pay for the repairs or replacement and you could also void the product warranty.



Property damage:
There are lots of ways to damage property when installing windows - accidents happen, and when they do, household insurance probably won't cover it. So you'll be out of pocket for any damage done. You will also need to protect your furniture and the inside of your home from dust and waste materials.



Incorrect installation
Preparation:
Preparation is an important step to the installation process. It is also an opportunity to fix items that may not have been put in place correctly in the first place. It is not uncommon to find leaks, rot, mould, hazardous materials, missing structural components or poor construction practises - all of which will need to be taken care of in order to ensure the health and longevity of the new installation.



Adaptive engineering:
An experienced installer will see potential installation issues right away and utilize adaptive solutions to fix the problem (sill extenders, sill adapters, frame extenders...), but a do-it-yourselfer may not discover issues, may not know how to resolve specific problems and they find performance issues after the installation.



Bends, bows and poor practices:
Window installation is not terribly complicated, but it does have to be done according to some standard practices. The overtightening of screws can lead to bends and bows in the frame as well as problems with operational windows. Screws (or wrong-sized screws) in the wrong places and blockage of weeping holes can cause window leakage and breaks. Overinflation of foam insulation or the incorrect type of insulation can also cause performance and operation of windows.



Tools, equipment and materials:
Window installation can require specialized tools including ladders, scaffolding, benders, suction cups and even cranes for bigger windows. Adhesive tapes, vapour barriers, caulking and flashings may also be required and in some cases will require other specialized tools that may not be in the arsenal of an average do-it-yourselfers toolbox.



Warranty:
The incorrect installation of new windows may void any product warranty you may have and you will need to take care of the expenses and materials required for any installation problems that may occur in the future.



Finishing
You'll have to finish the inside and outside of each window on your own (capping, caulking, trim, insulation materials)



Cleaning and waste disposal
Once the installation is complete, you will need to dispose of your old windows and all other waste materials to the appropriate disposal facilities. You will also need to do your own cleanup.

PROs

Cost
Depending on the amount of windows, the style of window, the location of the window, it is possible for a do-it-yourselfer to save between 20% to 50% by installing their windows themselves.



Professional Installation

PROs

Time
Experienced professional installers work in teams and are fast, proficient and attentive to detail. Some window replacement companies efficiently install and repair windows in all 4 seasons with winter being the least busy season of the year.



Professional installers can remove and install an average-sized window in as little as 1-2 hrs. A home with 20 average-sized windows will typically only take 2 days to complete.



Insurance
Worker's insurance:
A reputable replacement window company will have insurance coverage for accidental injury to their employees.



Property insurance:
A reputable replacement window company will have insurance coverage to cover accidental damage to a customer's home.



Protection
Your home:
Installers will protect your home with tarps and floor mats, they'll make all necessary machine cuts outside your home, and they'll clean everything up when they are done.



Damaged products:
If a product is damaged through the installation process (glass, hardware, window framing...) the installation company will fix or replace the window at no charge.



Labour warranty:
Some companies provide labour and material warranties on defective installations performed by their installation crews.



Tools & materials
Installers typically have a truck full of tools and installation materials to ensure that the removal of old windows and the installation of new windows will be correct and efficient.



Training & professionalism
Working with heights:
All window replacement companies in Ontario are required to have their installation crews trained for working with heights.



Product training:
All installers are typically trained in the proper installation procedures for each brand and type of window or door, they are installing.



Renovation training:
Trained installers know how to deal with hidden problems that may be uncovered during the removal stage.



Waste disposal
A good replacement window company will clean up thoroughly and dispose of all waste including the old windows to an appropriate waste disposal facility.



CONS

Cost
There are lots of items that account for the costs associated with a professional installation.



Depending on the window type, location and requirements, you can expect to add another 20% to 50% more to the cost for a professional installation.

Visit our showroom: 6270 Perth St., Richmond (Ottawa)



613-838-2211



www.bayviewwindows.ca

