



WINDURA®

Protect Your Home with Premium Windows & Doors



Vinyl vs. Fiberglass

| Which Is Better for
Your Windows & Doors?

Vinyl vs. Fiberglass: Which Is Better for Your Windows & Doors?

When it's time to replace your windows or doors, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by how many decisions you have to make. There are so many options, brands, and styles available. Even if you narrow down your choices, you're still left with a critical decision: the material.

Windows and doors come in a variety of materials. Two of the most popular include vinyl and fiberglass.

So how can you determine which option is best for your home?

In this guide, we compare the pros and cons of vinyl and fiberglass, taking an in-depth look at value, durability, ease of maintenance, and much more. We'll make it easy for you to choose the ideal material for your new windows or entry door, so you have one less decision to worry about!

Vinyl: A Low-Cost Alternative to Fiberglass

Vinyl is a synthetic plastic developed to make everyday products like flooring and windows more durable and affordable. As one of the most commonly produced window and door materials, vinyl is an excellent choice for anyone looking for a budget-friendly and low-maintenance product.

Pros

Low Maintenance

Vinyl is a long-lasting material that is easy to clean and repair. Unlike traditional wood windows, which are prone to water damage in the midwest, vinyl won't rot, peel, or chip.

Affordable

Vinyl can be moderately priced compared to materials like fiberglass or wood. Budget-grade vinyl are cheaper, but high-quality vinyl is often reinforced with fiberglass for added durability.

Versatile

Vinyl comes in several base colors, including the ever-popular white, beige, and sandstone. Manufacturers can also apply a laminate or paint to match your home's exterior.

Energy Efficient

Vinyl windows manufactured with Low-E glass and argon gas reflect heat from the outside during the summer and keep heat in during the winter—helping you save on energy bills.

Cons

You're Stuck with the Color

Vinyl is not recommended to be painted by the manufacturer, so the color you choose is your choice for the life of your home. This means you have to pick the right color the first time.

The Finish

Vinyl has a shiny appearance that is overstated and closely resembles plastic. Additionally, if you want a black or darker color, you must pay extra for the unit to be painted at the factory.

Variations in Quality

There are over 500 vinyl manufacturers. Some offer budget-grade windows made with cheaper vinyl, and others with high-quality vinyl and lifetime warranties. Quality varies between brands.

Durability Doesn't Last

While vinyl lasts longer than wood, it is known to lose resiliency as it ages. Vinyl windows last between 20-40 years, so long as they are well maintained and installed correctly.



Fiberglass: A Durable Alternative to Vinyl

Stronger than vinyl and more affordable than wood, fiberglass is a durable material that stands the test of time while providing a classic, high-end look. It's the preferred material for anyone looking for beautiful windows or doors that will stand the test of time.

Pros

Appearance

Fiberglass is manufactured using quartz and sand, providing a more natural aesthetic. It can be easily painted, so you can change your mind at any time and update the look of your exterior.

Easier to Choose a Manufacturer

Only a few companies manufacture fiberglass windows, so it can be easier to discern between two or three compared to the multitude of vinyl manufacturers.

Low Maintenance

Like vinyl, fiberglass won't rot the way traditional wood does. It's also easy to maintain, and when maintained properly, can last you around 50 years.

Strength

Fiberglass is 8x stronger than vinyl, so your windows/doors will maintain their integrity when your home shifts over time. This prevents leaks, cracks, and pests from getting into your home.



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Cons

Pricing

The price of fiberglass is that of an upgrade to your home. They typically cost 30-50% more than vinyl. Because fiberglass is heavy, you'll need to hire an installation company as well.

Limited Styles

Fiberglass does not bend well to make arch top windows and has a maximum size it can be cut for some window types. As a result, specific shapes and sizes may not be available.

Fewer Choices

Only a handful of companies make these windows, and not all of them distribute nationwide. With fewer than 5 manufacturers to choose from, you may need help finding the right brand.

Not DIY-Friendly

Fiberglass has particular weight specifications and is often extremely heavy to move. As a result, it's easy to install fiberglass incorrectly if you don't hire a trusted installation company.

Find Your Perfect Material & Manufacturer with Windura

You aren't just investing in new windows and doors. You're investing in your home's curb appeal, comfort, and security. It's no wonder you feel pressured to make all the right decisions and ensure you get the most value from that investment.

Windura makes it easy for you to protect your home and enjoy it to the fullest. For over 20 years, we've helped Kansas City homeowners select the best windows and doors based on their needs, preferences, and budget. Additionally, our industry-certified (never sub-contractors) installers take the time to ensure your products are installed right.

Whether you need a single door replaced or all the windows in your home, you can feel confident knowing we'll put you first. Book a free in-home consultation now, and let our team walk you through your options.

Schedule an In-Home Consult



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