

Frequently Asked Questions



INSULATING WINDOW INSERTS

What are WindowDressers Insulating Window Inserts?

Inserts are constructed of custom-made pine frames wrapped in two layers of tightly-sealed, clear plastic film and finished with a compressible foam gasket. The foam allows enough give for the inserts to be easily slid into place in the fall and removed in the spring, while holding firmly enough to provide a tight, friction-based seal that stops drafts and adds two more insulating air spaces between your home and your window. The inserts are installed inside of your existing window with no fasteners required. They function like interior storm windows and have high insulating value.

What size should I order? How do I know they will fit?

inserts are custom built to the exact size of your windows. Simply place your order online or contact your Local Coordinator (contact on reverse). We will then schedule a team of trained volunteers to visit your home and measure each window for inserts. Our inserts are custom-built to those exact measurements. However, there are some cases where our inserts will not work for you. If your windows are badly out of square, if you lack framing around your windows (like in an older-model mobile home), or if you have unusual trim inside of your framing that prevents a tight fit, our trained volunteer measurers may tell you that your windows are not compatible with our inserts. Double-hung, casement, and sliding windows are all usually compatible. If we measure your windows and approve your order, we guarantee that your inserts will fit. In the rare cases where an insert does not fit, we fix the insert until it fits or refund your money.

What are typical cost and energy savings?

WindowDressers research shows that, in a typical northern New England house, one medium insert (30" x 52") can save an average of 8.5 gallons of heating oil every year, for an estimated savings of \$15-\$40 per year, depending on variations in fuel price. Our inserts generally pay for themselves in two heating seasons or less. Window inserts have a typical R-value of 2.0, compared to an R-value of single and double pane existing windows of 0.91 and 1.93, respectively. For more detailed information go to research links found at <https://windowdressers.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

How long to these Inserts last?

With reasonable care, our inserts can last for 5-10 years or longer. After that time, the foam may begin to degrade and/or the plastic may tear. We offer re-wrapping of your frames for just \$15 per insert.

I rent my home. Can I still get inserts?

Yes! Since there are no fasteners to damage the window-framing, inserts are an ideal choice for renters to improve the warmth of their living space. Some landlords will even purchase inserts for their tenants, especially if the landlord pays for the heat.

I have dogs or cats. Will inserts work for me?

While inserts are quite durable, plastic film can be damaged by puncture. If a dog or cat puts their claws into the plastic, it will tear. If a child pokes a pencil into it, it will tear. Inserts that are damaged in such a way can be rewrapped for \$15 each. Some homeowners with pets will leave their pet's favorite window without an insert, put a curtain over the lower part of the insert, or fasten a piece of plexiglass over the lower part of the insert.

Can I leave my inserts in all year?

You can! Inserts improve the efficiency of air conditioning as much as they help keep your home warmer in winter. They are also great street sound insulators. Most homeowners, however, take the inserts out of their windows in the spring so they can enjoy the cool summer breezes through their open windows.

Have more questions? Contact members of the Exeter WindowDressers Build or Exeter Energy Committee C/O Kristen Murphy, Exeter Sustainability Planner, windowdressers@exeternh.gov; (603) 418-6452