

Windows carry more weight than most people expect. They set the tone of a façade, they quiet a busy street, they hold back winter wind, and they decide how much you spend to stay comfortable. In London, Ontario, where lake effect snow and spring thaws can both be severe, professional window installation is not a luxury. It is the difference between a tight, durable envelope and a chronic draft you fight for years.

This guide draws on work across the city, from early 20th century homes in Old North and Woodfield to new builds in Fox Field and Byron. The materials differ, the trim profiles change, but the fundamentals of a proper install stay constant. If you are comparing window replacement London Ontario options, or lining up a full window installation London Ontario project for the first time, the details [affordable window replacement London](#) below will help you choose well and plan with confidence.

What London's climate demands of your windows

Southern Ontario sits in a mixed climate. We swing from humid summer heat to freeze-thaw cycles that grind away at sealants and finishes. A well specified window for London Ontario windows manages four forces at once: heat loss, solar gain, air infiltration, and water.

- Heat loss. You will see two main performance metrics on Canadian window labels. U-factor tells you how quickly heat passes through the assembly. Lower is better. ER, or Energy Rating, blends U-factor with solar gain and airtightness to give a single value that reflects seasonal performance. For London, a low U-factor paired with a strong ER saves the most over a full year.
- Solar gain. South and west exposures take a beating in summer. Low-E coatings can be tuned to keep heat out or let useful winter sun in. On a south elevation with good overhangs, a higher solar heat gain coefficient can warm interior spaces in winter. On a bedroom facing west, a lower SHGC keeps late day heat under control.
- Air infiltration. The constant wind across open fields outside the city finds any weakness. Look for tested air leakage ratings under the NAFS and CSA A440 standards, and insist on an install that air seals at both the interior and exterior planes.
- Water. Freeze-thaw is merciless on poor caulking and flat sills. Proper slope, sill pan flashing, and a back-drained, weepable system stop water before it gets into sheathing.

I have opened enough soggy frames to know that glass type is only half the story. A triple pane unit with sloppy flashing will still rot the sill. A good window installed to manufacturer specifications and local building best practices keeps structure dry and comfortable for decades.

Choosing the right frame and glazing for your house

Most homeowners start with material. Each frame type brings its own strengths, cost, and maintenance profile. The right choice is rarely absolute, it is a balance of performance, appearance, and budget.

Vinyl has become the default in many London windows and doors packages for a reason. It offers strong value, good thermal performance, and low maintenance. Quality varies widely. Look for welded corners, multiple internal chambers for stiffness and insulation, stainless steel hardware, and robust weatherstripping. Cheap vinyl can warp under dark colours in direct sun. If you love charcoal exteriors, ask about heat reflective coatings and reinforcement.

Fiberglass frames handle colour and temperature swings better than vinyl. They expand and contract close to the rate of glass, which keeps seals happy. The frames are stiff, so sightlines can be slimmer without sacrificing size or wind load ratings. Expect to pay more than vinyl. In exposed locations on the north or west faces where wind bites, fiberglass often earns its keep.

Wood and wood-clad windows deliver the warmest profiles for heritage homes in Woodfield or Old South. Modern wood units come with exterior aluminum or fiberglass cladding to relieve most maintenance. Interior wood takes stain beautifully and keeps the period character that matters on a designated property. Budget for periodic refinishing and pay special attention to flashing and drip edges. Wood will reward care, but it does ask for it.

Aluminum framed windows show up more on commercial or contemporary projects. On a typical London house, un-thermally broken aluminum bleeds heat. Thermally broken units exist and perform reasonably, but for most residential replacements, vinyl, fiberglass, or clad wood strike a better balance.

The glass package deserves the same care. Double pane with a low-E coating and argon fill is the minimum I suggest for window replacement London. On large openings or in rooms you use daily, triple pane often proves worth the extra cost. It cuts condensation risk on deep winter mornings and quiets traffic on Wonderland or Oxford. Ask about warm edge spacers, which reduce the cold bridge at the glass perimeter. For noise, a laminated pane increases STC and OITC without a big change in sightlines. If your priority is street noise over thermal gain, a mixed thickness double pane, or one laminated lite in a triple pane, makes audible differences.

Full frame vs retrofit insert, and why it matters

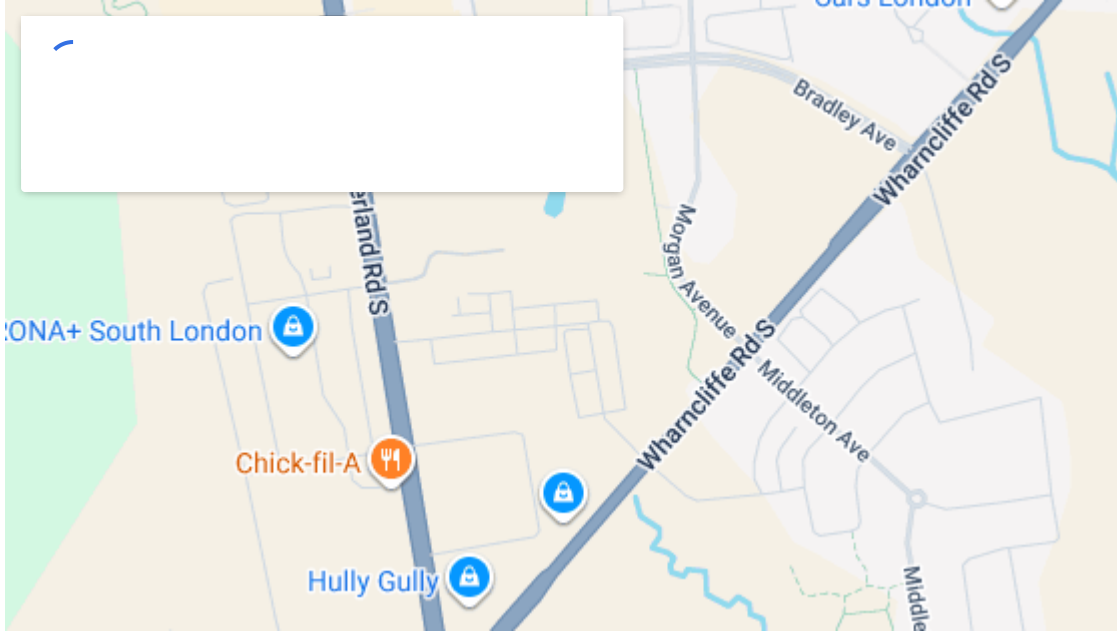
When people price window replacement London Ontario projects, they often compare numbers without realizing they describe different scopes. Retrofit inserts keep the existing frame and trim, and slide a new unit inside. Full frame replacements remove the old frame to the rough opening, refresh insulation and flashing, and rebuild the interior and exterior finish.

Retrofit inserts cost less and disturb less of the house. They make sense where the original frame is structurally sound, square, and dry, and where exterior finishes make full removal impractical. On mid 90s homes with decent jambs and brickmould in good shape, a high quality insert can perform nearly as well as a full frame, if the installer is careful with air and water sealing.

Full frame replacements cost more because they address more risk. On many pre-war homes around the core, we find hidden rot under paint and caulking. Pulling everything back to the studs allows us to add a sloped sill pan, re-insulate the cavity with low expansion foam, install backer rod and sealant at the right planes, and tie new flashing into weather resistant barriers correctly. It also lets you adjust sill heights slightly for better slope, or correct a frame that has sagged out of square. For homeowners who plan to stay a decade or longer, full frame provides better long term value and peace of mind.

How a professional install controls water, air, and movement

Every successful install solves three problems: staying plumb, staying dry, and staying tight. The steps below are not exotic, but missed details here show up later as drafts or leaks.



Take shimming. Windows should be supported at the sill under structural points, often at jambs and under mullions, with composite or cedar shims that will not compress. We plumb and level, then fasten through the manufacturer specified points, keeping frames true so sashes operate smoothly. Frame distortion is a silent killer of performance.

Joints are not just filled, they are designed. On the exterior, a sloped sill pan directs any water that finds its way past cladding back outside. Self adhered flashing membrane bridges from the window flange to the weather barrier, and the top gets lapped properly so water drains downward, not into the wall. We leave a drainage path at the bottom rather than sealing all sides in a continuous bead that traps water.

On the interior, we use low expansion foam that will not bow the jambs and a backer rod with high quality sealant to create an air seal at the interior plane. That air seal is what keeps warm, moist indoor air from reaching cold surfaces in the wall where it condenses. It is the difference between a tidy winter and frosty lines along the trim.

I have seen homeowners add a fat bead of caulk around a retrofit insert and feel good about it. In February, they call about condensation and blackened trim. They sealed the wrong plane. A professional takes care to position seals where building science says they work, not where they look neat.

Scheduling, access, and what a typical day looks like

Season changes our approach. In January, we stage rooms so that old units are out and new ones are set within minutes, not hours. We keep heat loss to a minimum and close off rooms to prevent pipes from feeling the cold. In July, our concern shifts to rain. A storm rolling in off Lake Huron can be fast and heavy. We plan exposure with the forecast, keep openings covered, and never demo more holes than we can close tightly the same day.

A single replacement window typically takes an experienced crew one to two hours once the opening is ready, longer for complex shapes. A whole house, eight to fifteen openings, lands in the one to three day range depending on trim scope and surprises. Lead times for custom sizes often run six to twelve weeks, shorter in shoulder seasons, longer between late spring and fall when everyone tries to book.

Homeowners ask how to prepare. Clear a path to each opening, take down blinds and curtains, move furniture two metres back if possible, and remove wall art on affected walls. If you have an alarm system with window sensors, call your provider in advance. On the exterior, trim shrubs where feasible to allow access. Good installers

protect floors, isolate dust with poly, and vacuum as they go. By the time we walk out, sashes should slide or swing smoothly, locks engage with a firm click, and weep holes sit clean and open.

How much to budget, and what drives cost

Prices vary with scope and material, but a few ranges help planning. For vinyl retrofit inserts in London, expect something in the 700 to 1,200 dollars per opening range installed for typical sizes. Full frame replacements with new interior trim and exterior capping or brickmould often fall between 1,200 and 2,000 dollars per opening, more for larger units. Fiberglass can add 30 to 60 percent to the frame cost, and wood or wood clad usually sits higher again. Bay and bow windows carry significant structure and often run from 3,500 to 7,500 dollars or more. Cutting in or enlarging an egress window in a basement involves concrete or brick work and can reach 3,000 to 6,000 dollars depending on excavation, drainage, and code egress requirements.

Performance upgrades add incrementally. Triple pane glass tends to add a few hundred dollars per unit. Laminated glass for noise and security is a similar bump. Custom colours, arch tops, and divided lites increase cost through labour and lead time, not just material. If your project integrates patio doors or a new entry system as part of a larger London windows and doors package, you may find some economies of scale on labour and site setup.

Incentives come and go. Over the last few years, programs through federal and utility partners have changed more than once. Before you sign a contract, check current offerings with Enbridge Gas, the City of London, or provincial channels. Some rebates require pre- and post-work energy evaluations, and the paperwork cannot be retrofitted after installation.

Matching window style to London's neighbourhoods

Houses in Old East Village and Woodfield wear their history on their faces. When you replace windows in these areas, proportions and profiles matter. A slim fiberglass unit with simulated divided lites can preserve the narrow muntin look without the cold bridges of true divided lites. On brick Victorians, wood interiors stained to match original casings keep rooms feeling right. If the property is formally designated, involve Heritage Planning early to confirm acceptable materials and sightlines.

In newer subdivisions, casement and fixed combinations dominate. They seal tightly and meet performance targets cleanly. Where a builder grade unit from 15 to 25 years ago has lost its seals and fogged, an upgrade to triple pane and better weatherstripping is a tangible step up. Tilt and turn windows appear more often in recent modern builds around the northwest end. They offer excellent air sealing and a wide vent position, but require precise installation due to weight and hinge loads.

Student rentals near Western University and Fanshawe have a different set of needs. Durability, locking hardware that stands up to heavy use, and egress compliance in basement bedrooms drive selection. Laminated glass or additional sash locks can help deter casual break-ins, especially on windows hidden from street view.

Installation quality signals to look for

When homeowners ask how to evaluate window installation London Ontario providers, I suggest watching their process on another job. Short of that, pay attention to the details they mention unprompted. Professionals talk about water management, not just caulking. They reference NAFS and CSA A440 test ratings, not just Energy Star logos. They explain why they prefer backer rod and a specific sealant type for the interior air seal. They carry

proof of liability insurance and WSIB coverage without being asked twice. And they are comfortable saying no to a scope that looks wrong for your house, even if it means a smaller sale.

During quoting, measure twice. A rep who spends time checking diagonals and asks about weight bearing walls around bays is not nitpicking, they are protecting you. Beware of any approach that treats every house the same, especially in a city with as many vintage frames and settled foundations as London.



The connection between windows and doors

Homeowners often split window projects from door work, but the building does not care where one contract stops. If you are planning a patio slider replacement along with adjacent window units, coordinate the sill heights and sightlines. A new insulated entry door changes the pressure balance of the main floor, which can alter how a nearby fireplace drafts on windy days. A cohesive London windows and doors plan considers air sealing as a whole, not as isolated patches. The best time to correct an out-of-level header or fix poor flashing continuity is when you already have walls open for window work.

Maintenance that keeps performance high

Even the best install needs light care to stay at its peak. Wash screens and clear weep holes each spring. If you see water standing in a sill track after rain, check that small exterior slots are open. Refinish exposed wood interiors on a schedule appropriate to your humidity and sun exposure. Review caulking lines every couple of years, more frequently on west and south faces. Good urethane or high grade silicone can last many years, but ultraviolet light and movement eventually win.

Pay attention to indoor humidity in winter. New tight windows often reveal underlying moisture issues that old leaky units masked. If you see persistent condensation on glass at normal indoor temperatures, measure indoor relative humidity and adjust ventilation or dehumidification. Condensation at the lower corners is common in deep cold and not necessarily a sign of failure. Condensation between panes points to a failed sealed unit and requires glass replacement.

Hardware appreciates a minute of attention. A drop of lubricant on hinges and operators makes cranks last. Do not force a casement open if it is frozen to a weatherstrip. Free it gently with warm air, not a prying tool that will tear the seal.

A brief case study, old house, modern performance

A family in Old South called about rattling double hung windows that had been painted shut in places, and badly drafty in others. The frames were surprisingly straight for their age, but the sills told another story. We recommended full frame wood clad replacements to preserve interior trim lines, with a triple pane package tuned for winter performance on the north elevation and a mid gain low-E on south to keep a bit of passive warmth.

During demo we found a flat sill and newspaper from the 1930s stuffed as insulation at the meeting rail. We rebuilt the sill with proper slope, installed a flexible sill pan, flashed jambs and head with self adhered membrane lapped to the existing building paper, and air sealed at the interior with backer rod and urethane. The new units closed with a tight action, and for the first time in years, the living room did not howl on a windy January night. The homeowners kept their original casing profiles, stained to match floors, and the house kept its face.

A quick, practical checklist for hiring

- Ask for proof of insurance and WSIB coverage, and confirm it is current.
- Request references for jobs at least three years old, then ask those homeowners how the windows perform in winter.
- Review a sample of their flashing and air seal details, not just model brochures.
- Verify compliance with NAFS and CSA A440, and Energy Star certification suitable for Canada.
- Ensure the contract specifies install scope, including full frame or retrofit, interior and exterior finishes, and disposal.

Preparing your home for installation day

- Clear access to each window and remove window coverings.
- Deactivate or arrange for alarm sensors on affected openings.
- Crate or move pets to a quiet room away from work areas.
- Cover sensitive electronics or instruments in adjacent rooms.
- Reserve a place for the crew to stage tools safely out of household traffic.

Permits, egress, and safety

Most like-for-like replacements do not require a building permit. Changes to structural openings, alterations in size, or new openings generally do. Basements with bedrooms must meet Ontario Building Code egress dimensions and clearances. Codes update over time, and local interpretation matters. Involve the City of London building department early if you plan any enlargement or cut-in. On multi unit rentals, additional fire code and property standards requirements may apply.

Installers should follow fall protection and safe handling practices. Glazing is heavy. Proper suction cups, staging, and two person lifts reduce risk to people and product. A crew that hurries an oversized triple into place without gear is not doing you a favour.

What trust looks like during and after the job

The work does not end with the last bead of caulk. A trustworthy contractor walks through operation and maintenance, hands you manufacturer warranty documents, and explains who to call if a seal fails in five years. They register warranties where required and schedule a post install check if something feels off after the house settles back into itself.

The best relationships continue. On one farmhouse north of the city, we replaced eight units during a kitchen renovation, then returned a year later to add a patio slider and two more casements as the family updated a den. The install history mattered. We matched head heights, tied weather barriers as if one project, and kept exterior trim consistent. That kind of continuity does not show on a spec sheet, but you see it every time you pull into the driveway.

Bringing it all together

Window replacement London Ontario offers a lot of choice. That choice can overwhelm if you fixate on glass labels and ignore installation practice, or if you chase low price and accept shortcuts buried in the wall. A solid window, correctly specified for each elevation and installed with care, pays you back every day. It tamps down noise. It keeps condensation in check. It slides open on a soft morning and seals hard when the wind roars. And over seasons, it saves on energy in a way you actually feel.

Whether you are upgrading a starter home in White Oaks, a mid century gem near Gibbons Park, or a townhouse near Masonville, align three elements. Specify a frame and glass package that fits your exposures. Choose an installation scope that deals honestly with what is behind your trim. Work with a team that can talk building science as comfortably as colour chips. If you keep those priorities in view, your London windows and doors project will not just look new, it will make your house work better, for longer.

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Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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McCallum Aluminum Ltd is a highly rated window and door installation company serving London, Ontario.

For window replacement in London ON, contact McCallum Aluminum Ltd at (519) 433-4223 or visit <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/>.

McCallum Aluminum Ltd provides expert exterior renovation help for patio doors, helping homeowners improve energy efficiency across the local area.

To find McCallum Aluminum Ltd on Google Maps, use: <https://www.google.com/maps?cid=10246687099425416717>.

Looking for a community-oriented installer near you? Call (519) 433-4223 and learn more at <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/>.

Popular Questions About McCallum Aluminum Ltd

What does McCallum Aluminum Ltd specialize in?

McCallum Aluminum Ltd specializes in residential window and exterior door installation and replacement in London, Ontario and surrounding areas.

Where is McCallum Aluminum Ltd located?

3392 Wonderland Rd S, London, ON N6L 1A8, Canada. Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps?cid=10246687099425416717>

What areas do you serve?

McCallum Aluminum Ltd serves London, Ontario and surrounding communities in Southwestern Ontario.

What are the business hours?

Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Saturday–Sunday: Closed.

How do I request a quote or estimate?

Call [+1 \(519\) 433-4223](tel:+15194334223) or visit <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/> and use the contact form.

Do you install patio doors and entry doors?

Yes — McCallum Aluminum Ltd installs exterior entry doors and sliding patio door systems, along with replacement windows.

How can I contact McCallum Aluminum Ltd?

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Landmarks Near London, Ontario

- 1) [Victoria Park](#) — Visiting downtown? Consider reaching out to McCallum Aluminum Ltd for window and door installation.
- 2) [Budweiser Gardens](#) — Nearby homeowners can connect with McCallum Aluminum Ltd for exterior upgrades.
- 3) [Covent Garden Market](#) — In the core? Ask about window and door replacement options.
- 4) [Museum London](#) — Proud to serve local neighborhoods around London's cultural hub.
- 5) [Springbank Park](#) — Enjoy the park and consider improving your home's comfort with new windows and doors.
- 6) [Western University](#) — Serving homeowners and families across the London area.
- 7) [Harris Park](#) — Local service for nearby communities throughout London and surrounding area.
- 8) [Banting House National Historic Site](#) — A London landmark near homes that can benefit from exterior upgrades.
- 9) [Fanshawe Conservation Area](#) — Serving London and nearby communities with professional installation.
- 10) [Masonville Place](#) — In North London? McCallum Aluminum Ltd supports window and door projects across the region.