



Alexandria New and Replacement Window Performance Specifications in the Historic Districts*

May 2018

If replacement windows are permitted pursuant to the *BAR's Policies for Administrative Approval for Windows*, Windows may be made by any manufacturer, but their materials, form and design of the windows must comply with the specifications below. Windows on new construction must also comply with these specifications, to be approved administratively by BAR staff. If the windows do not comply, they must be approved by the BAR at a public hearing:

1. ~~Wood~~ Replacement windows must be full frame or sash replacement kits in the existing frame rather than insert or pocket replacements. Fiberglass ~~insert windows~~ can be insert windows if they have must have tight tolerances with minimal jamb widths and overlay panning.;
2. The dimensions and proportions of the window rails, stiles, muntins, frame, sill and exterior trim must match historically appropriate window proportions.;
3. Multi-light insulated glass windows must have permanently fixed muntins on both the interior and exterior, with spacer bars between the glass ~~that are a non-reflective, medium value color.~~;
4. Muntins must be sized appropriately and paintable ~~and have a putty glaze profile on the exterior.~~ Putty profile muntins are preferred.
5. All glazing must be clear, non-reflective and without tint. Low-E (low emissivity) glazing is encouraged for energy conservation, ~~but the glass must have a minimum 72% visible light transmission (VLT) with a through the glass shading coefficient between 0.87 – 1.0, and a reflectance of less than 10%. Low-E 272 glass generally meets these criteria requirements;~~
6. The vinyl weatherstrip portion of the wood window jambs should be minimally visible.;
7. ~~Insect screen frames must match the color of the window frame and the screen mesh must be a neutral color with sufficient light transmittance that the window sash remains visible behind; and,~~

For help, contact BAR staff at preservation@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3833. ~~Applications and fees can be found at www.alexandriava.gov/preservation.~~

7. The applicant must submit complete window manufacturer specification sheets or “cut sheets” to BAR staff to confirm compliance with these specifications. All window replacements in the historic districts require a building permit from Code Administration.

8. * In the Parker-Gray District vinyl windows are permitted in certain limited locations (Parker-Gray Windows).

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