

A well-sealed window feels quiet before it feels warm. Stand beside a drafty single pane in January and you will hear the street more than you should, then feel the chill that sneaks past loose weatherstripping. For many London homeowners, that experience is the daily reminder that outdated windows and doors are burning money. With our lake-influenced winters, humid summers, and shoulder seasons that never quite decide, the right upgrades pay back in lower bills and steadier comfort.

The benefits are not abstract. A 1990s vinyl double pane with failing seals can have a U-factor around 0.45 to 0.50 Btu/hr-ft²-F. A modern triple pane with a selective low-e coating and warm-edge spacer can hit 0.17 to 0.22. That is a measurable cut in heat flow, and on a typical London detached with 200 to 250 square feet of glazing, the annual heating load drops enough to notice on your Enbridge bill. Summer gains fall too, shaving air conditioning run time. When homeowners ask where to start with efficiency, I point to the glass and the door slab long before I talk about solar panels.

How London's climate punishes poor fenestration

Our weather is a study in contrasts. The polar air that rolls down the Highway 4 corridor in January is not kind to aluminum spacers or leaky sashes. Overnight lows routinely sit in the minus teens Celsius, which drives interior glass surfaces toward dew point if coatings and gas fills are not doing their job. In July, the southwest sun across the open fields outside the city slams west facing rooms with heat, and humidity turns every tiny air leak into a sticky draft.

Older neighborhoods like Old North and Woodfield have a mix of vintage double hungs and later aluminum storms. South and west, many 1980s and 1990s subdivisions have builder-grade vinyl that is simply at the end of its service life. The pattern is familiar in window replacement London Ontario projects: brittle frames, failed insulated glass units with fogging, bowed sashes that no longer latch square. Doors tell a similar story. Hollow steel with compressed weatherstripping, warped jambs, and aluminum thresholds that telegraph the cold.

When I run blower door tests in these homes, windows and doors are often 20 to 35 percent of total leakage. That is before counting conductive losses through the glazing itself. The fix is not only better glass. It is about the whole assembly, the way it meets the wall, and the small choices that either invite or block moisture.

What matters in an efficient window

Window labels can look like alphabet soup, so it helps to focus on numbers that steer bills and comfort. In Canada, two metrics and a rating system do most of the work.

U-factor describes heat flow, lower is better. For our climate, aim at 0.20 to 0.28 Btu/hr-ft²-F for triple pane or the low 0.30s for strong double pane. The Energy Rating, or ER, is a Canadian composite score that blends U-factor, solar heat gain, and air leakage. In Southwestern Ontario, a higher ER is good for winter heat, but do not chase ER at the expense of summer comfort on big west exposures. The Solar Heat Gain Coefficient, or SHGC, tells you how much sun passes as heat, and you usually want a moderate SHGC on south windows, lower on west.

Gas fills and coatings do the quiet work. Argon is common and cost effective. Krypton gets you a bit more performance in narrow cavities but costs more. Low-e coatings are where the real gains happen. A single selective coating on surface 3 of a double pane will cut winter losses and reflect room heat back at you. On triple panes, stacking coatings can dial in SHGC for each orientation. Warm-edge spacers matter for condensation resistance. Edge of glass is always the coldest point, so stainless steel or composite spacers beat older aluminum every time.

Air leakage is the hidden villain. Even the best glass underperforms if the sash and frame do not seal tight. Look for units with low air leakage ratings and a solid locking system that pulls sashes hard against the weatherstripping. When you shop London Ontario windows, feel the compression seal with your fingers, open and close the unit a few times, and watch how the sash beds into the frame.

Frame and sash materials, without the hype

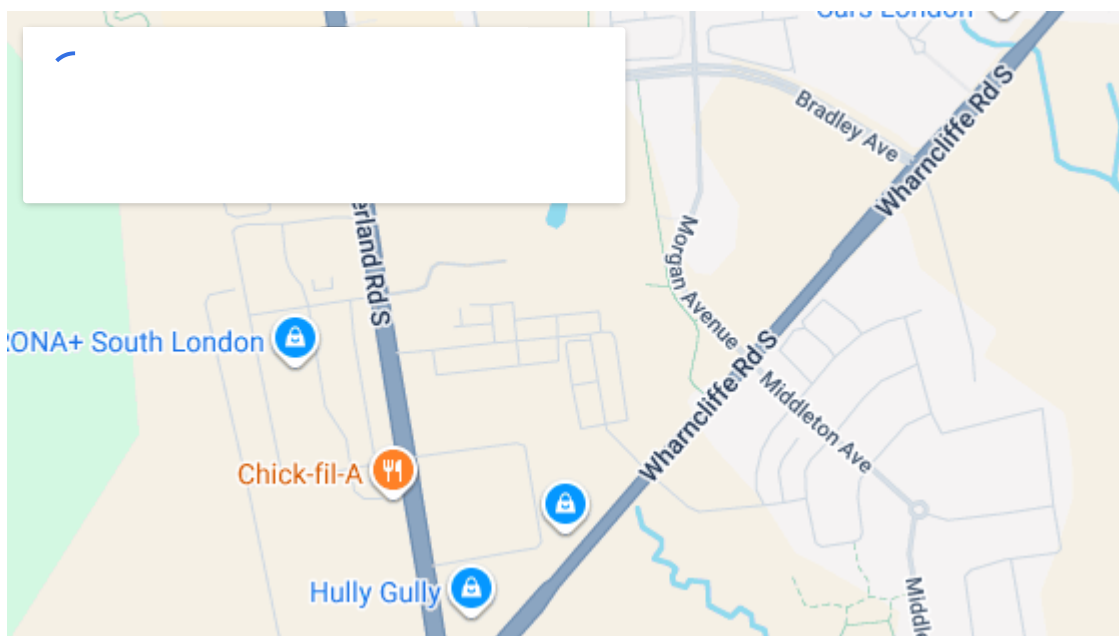
Vinyl is ubiquitous because it hits a price to performance sweet spot, but not all vinyl is equal. Multi-chamber extrusions with interior webs resist deflection and improve thermal break. The darker the colour, the more you should care about wall thickness and UV stability. Fiberglass frames expand and contract closer to glass, which keeps seals happier across seasons, and they hold paint well. Wood and wood-clad look right in heritage homes and insulate beautifully, but they ask for maintenance and need careful flashing to manage bulk water. Aluminum belongs on commercial towers and modernists' dreams, not on a London bungalow without a serious thermal break.

On sliding windows, recognize the trade-off. They are simple, clean looking, and sometimes the only fit for a low sill over a kitchen sink. They also leak more air than a high-quality casement that locks tight on a compression gasket. Awning windows pair well with persistent rain because they shed water when open a bit for ventilation.

Triple pane or not

If you ask five installers whether triple pane is worth it, you will get six answers. My short view for window replacement London: if you plan to stay five to ten years or more, and you have any north or west exposures, triple pane with the right coatings is almost always the better buy. It lowers U-factor, muffles traffic, and cuts the radiant chill that keeps your thermostat higher. On small windows with deep overhangs, or on a tight budget, a stout double pane with a selective low-e and argon can still be a smart compromise.

Pay attention to SHGC on big south windows. I have seen people swing too far toward ultra low solar gain glass, then wonder why their winter sun does not warm the room anymore. A measured approach wins: moderate SHGC south, low SHGC west, balanced elsewhere.



Doors are part of the energy story

Exterior doors age in ways that are easy to miss. A steel slab with voids behaves differently than an insulated steel or fiberglass door with high-density foam. The slab R-value is only part of the picture. The frame, sill, and sweep either lock in the gain or undo it. Multipoint locks reduce warping and improve seal compression, especially on taller 8-foot slabs. Adjustable sills and high-quality weatherstripping are worth every dollar. For sidelites, ask about the insulated spacer and the low-e package, not just the pattern.

If your entry sees southerly exposure, consider a deeper overhang or storm door primarily for rain and UV control. Storms can save paint and reduce drafts, but a poorly vented storm in full sun can cook finishes. For patio doors, contemporary vinyl or fiberglass sliders with tandem rollers and well-designed interlocks can be tight. Hinged French doors need careful installation to avoid hinge-side leaks.

Installation in London, Ontario is its own craft

The product is only half the equation. Window installation London Ontario projects succeed or fail at the sill pan and the way the new unit ties into the wall control layers. I see two typical methods in our housing stock: brick-to-brick replacement and interior retrofit inserts.

Brick-to-brick pulls the entire old frame and brickmould, right back to the studs. You get new insulation around the unit, fresh flashing, and a clean reset for water management. This is my default on houses older than 25 years where the original frames are suspect. Retrofit inserts leave the old jambs in place and slide a new frame inside. Done right, they are faster and less disruptive to interior finishes. Done wrong, they trap water and ignore rotten sills.

Use a preformed or site-built sill pan that tilts toward daylight. Back dams keep interior spills from running into the wall. Self-adhered flashing tapes must shingle with the weather-resistive barrier, not fight it. Low-expansion foam is the right tool for the gap, but it is not structure. Shim at hinge points and lock points. On brick, pay attention to the exterior air seal where the new brickmould meets masonry. A too-thin bead, or the wrong sealant, fails within a season.

For doors, check the subfloor and threshold support. I have replaced doors where the sill sat on nothing more than splintered OSB and a prayer. Composite or treated subsills, properly flashed, stop the rot cycle. Where snow piles at a windward entry, I often push clients toward outswing units for the better weather seal, provided egress and patio flows still make sense.

Costs, savings, and what payback actually looks like

Numbers matter. In London, a quality triple pane casement in a common size might land installed in the 900 to 1,400 dollar range, higher for custom shapes or exterior aluminum cladding, lower for straightforward doubles. Large picture windows can run 1,500 to 3,000 dollars depending on size and glazing. A good insulated fiberglass or steel entry door with a new frame and hardware commonly runs 2,500 to 5,000 dollars installed, more with sidelites or custom finishes. Full brick-to-brick projects sit at the higher end, while insert retrofits are leaner on labour and trim work.

On the savings side, a detached London home heated with natural gas can often trim 10 to 20 percent of space heating after a comprehensive window and door upgrade, sometimes more if starting from single panes or leaky storms. Air-conditioning savings are typically smaller in absolute dollars but noticeable in comfort. If your annual gas spend is 1,500 to 2,000 dollars, that 10 to 20 percent translates to 150 to 400 dollars a year, not counting comfort wins and noise reduction. Simple payback on windows alone stretches, but the lifespan of modern units is 25 to 30 years when installed well, which means you enjoy the benefits a long time.

Incentives change. Some federal and provincial programs have paused or shifted terms over the past two years. Before you sign a contract, check current offerings from Enbridge Gas and federal efficiency portals. London Hydro occasionally supports broader efficiency initiatives even if not window specific. A reputable contractor will know what applies and will not oversell a rebate that may not materialize.



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Real houses, real results

Two years ago, we worked on a 1958 bungalow near Hastings Park. Original wood frames with aluminum storms, loose as a tired jacket. The owners wanted to cap drafts first, payback second. We chose fiberglass casements with triple glazing on north and west, double pane with higher SHGC on the small south windows under deep eaves. Brick-to-brick let us rebuild the corners where rot had quietly chewed the sills. We flashed to the existing building paper and tied in new aluminum capping that matched the updated soffits. They reported their thermostat sat two degrees lower through winter without complaints and that the front bedroom facing the street became the quietest room in the house.

A newer build in the southwest had different needs. The west wall was mostly glass, and the summer sun turned the living room into a greenhouse by 4 p.m. The existing units were respectable double panes, but with a mid-high SHGC and aluminum spacers. We kept the frames but replaced the glass with a lower SHGC package and warm-edge spacers, then re-tuned the shades. It was not a full window replacement London project, but it delivered what mattered: peak cooling load dropped, the room stopped baking, and the family kept their budget for a kitchen upgrade.

On doors, one of the larger gains I see is simply fixing the threshold and sealing the sill. A River Bend client had a handsome but leaky wood entry. We replaced it with a fiberglass slab, multipoint lock, and new composite threshold, then rebuilt the sill pan. The homeowner said the foyer stopped smelling like wet leaves every time it rained, and their hallway floor in winter felt warmer to bare feet. That is comfort you sense every day.

Repair versus replace

There is a middle path between doing nothing and starting fresh. If your insulated glass is fogged but the frames are still square and solid, a glass-only replacement with modern coatings can buy another decade at a fraction of full replacement. If sash cords are broken on century homes with original wood, a careful rebuild with weatherstripping preserves character and improves efficiency. The decision turns on moisture damage, air leakage, and the number of repairs stacking up. When I walk a house for window installation London Ontario

consultations, I carry a thin probe to test sills and a level to check frame plumb. Soft wood or twisted frames push the call toward full replacement.

Orientation, shading, and the London sun

We get long summer evenings that pour sun through west glass after 5 p.m. If you have a large west slider to the yard, combine low SHGC glazing with exterior shading where possible. Pergolas, deciduous plantings, and even well-placed awnings turn good glass into great comfort. South windows under classic mid-century eaves often deserve higher SHGC to harvest winter sun. North is where U-factor is king. Keep the heat in, block the wind, and watch your condensation risk drop.

Condensation is a symptom, not the disease. If you see persistent water on interior glass in winter, measure humidity. Many London homes run humidifiers hard to help floors and sinuses, then blame windows for doing physics. With high-performance glass and warm-edge spacers, you can sustain relative humidity in the low 30s at minus 15 Celsius outdoors without wet **sash window replacement London Ontario** sashes, but push humidity into the 40s and you will fog most residential units. Air sealing, balanced ventilation, and mindful humidifier settings matter as much as the window spec.

Finding the right partner

Not every crew measures the same, and not every quote includes the same scope. When you gather bids for London windows and doors, look beyond the brand decal. Ask how they will flash the sill, what foam they use, how they shim, and where they set back the unit relative to the insulation plane. On brick, ask whether they install a drip cap or rely on caulk alone. Look at lead times and whether they own service after the sale or rely entirely on the manufacturer. A contractor who walks your home slowly, asks about how rooms feel at different times of day, and talks about orientation is more likely to deliver a result you enjoy.

If the phrase window replacement London Ontario shows up on every page of a company's site but their site photos show summer-only work and no winter staging, prod a little. Cold weather installs are possible and often necessary. The right crew stages one or two openings at a time, seals as they go, and keeps your house comfortable during the swap. There is no need to wait for May if you have a failed unit in February.

Building code, permits, and the details that surprise

Replacing like for like usually does not require a permit, but enlarging openings, cutting new ones, or altering egress for bedrooms crosses into building permit territory. London's building division is efficient, and most residential permits move briskly if drawings are clear. For heritage homes, designating committees may have a say in exterior appearance, particularly in Woodfield and other protected districts. You can balance efficiency and authenticity with wood-clad units, custom grilles, and respectful trim profiles.

Tempered glass rules apply beside doors, in wet zones like showers when windows are close, and near floor lines. Egress sizes for bedrooms are not suggestions. They save lives. If you are tightening up a basement suite, plan for egress carefully, and do not let a beautiful casement turn into a code headache because the well is too tight or the sash size is wrong.

A seasonal plan for upgrades

You do not have to do everything at once. If budget is tight, start with the worst orientation and biggest comfort offenders. Often that means north and west windows and any door you can feel air through without trying. Next,

target the largest panes of glass that see summer sun. Last, refresh decent south windows if their coatings are past their best or if frames are deteriorating. Over two or three seasons, you can transform the envelope without straining cash flow.

For landlords and small multifamily owners in London, stagger work unit by unit between turnovers. Tenants notice draft improvements more than almost any other measure, and higher retention offsets part of the cost. Keep documentation of specs, U-factors, and ER ratings. Savvy renters ask.

A quick buyer's checklist

- Verify U-factor and ER on the label, not just in the brochure, and make sure SHGC matches the window's orientation.
- Inspect the spacer type and ask for warm-edge or stainless, not bare aluminum, to manage condensation.
- Confirm installation details in writing, including sill pan, flashing tapes, foam, shims, and how they tie to the wall's water barrier.
- Ask about service terms, glass breakage coverage, and what happens if a seal fails in year seven, not just year one.
- For doors, choose insulated slabs, multipoint locks, and an adjustable sill with quality weatherstripping that you can replace later.

Full-frame versus insert, simplified

- Choose full-frame when sills or jambs are soft, frames are out of square, or you want to reset water management and insulation.
- Choose insert when frames are structurally sound, trim you love can stay, and you need minimal disruption.
- Full-frame suits houses older than 25 years with unknown water exposure or poor flashing history.
- Insert suits recent builds with acceptable frames but failed glass or dated hardware.
- If in doubt, remove one unit as a pilot, inspect the opening, and decide from evidence rather than guesswork.

Where the keywords meet the curb

Searches for window replacement London bring up a wide range of options, from one-truck outfits to regional firms with warehouses. That variety helps you price and schedule, but it also raises the odds of mixed quality. Use the language on the quotes to your advantage. When you see window installation London Ontario on a page, ask the salesperson **window replacement london ontario** what that means in terms of sill pans and WRB tie-ins. When a company lists london windows and doors next to a dozen other cities, make sure they know our clay soils, our brick detailing, and how our lake winds hit a west wall in February.

The best projects feel uneventful. The crew shows up on time, protects floors, removes a window, builds a pan that actually drains, sets the new unit square and true, foams and caps with care, then drives away leaving a quiet, steady room behind. A month later, you realize your thermostat sits lower, your furnace cycles less, and your kids do homework beside the living room window without a sweater. That is what good fenestration does. It fades into the background while your utility bills lose a little weight every month.

If you are weighing your options, gather two or three quotes, hold each company to concrete details, and pick the partner who talks about your house like a system, not a sales target. London Ontario windows have to work in a climate that asks a lot of them. Choose glass and doors that meet that challenge, and the savings follow.

Business Information (NAP)

Name: McCallum Aluminum Ltd

Address: 3392 Wonderland Rd S, London, ON N6L 1A8, Canada

Phone: (519) 433-4223

Website: <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/>

Email: inquiries@mccallumaluminum.on.ca

Hours:

Monday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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For door replacement in the surrounding area, contact McCallum Aluminum Ltd at (519) 433-4223 or visit <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/>.

McCallum Aluminum Ltd provides quality-driven service for windows, helping homeowners improve home value across the local area.

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

Looking for a local 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?

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?

Phone: [+1 \(519\) 433-4223](tel:+15194334223)

Email: inquiries@mccallumaluminum.on.ca

Website: <https://mccallumaluminum.on.ca/>

Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps?cid=10246687099425416717>

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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.