

Fact Sheet

LiveSmart – Grants for Wood Storm Windows in Heritage Homes

Why a Wood Storm Window?

A traditionally made wood storm window is a removable wood window that is mounted outside or inside of the existing windows of a house to improve their energy efficiency and life-expectancy. It is a tried and tested traditional solution and serves as a seasonal (or sometimes permanent) retrofit for existing windows.

Wood storms are found throughout British Columbia and are gaining in popularity as a way of improving thermal efficiency in traditionally-constructed wood homes and heritage homes while retaining their special character. Wood storm windows are also very compatible with traditional wood-frame house construction exhibiting similar good physical characteristics of thermal performance and moisture transfer.

Other Benefits:

In addition to lowering heating bills, traditionally-made wood storm windows help to protect windows during inclement weather, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and prevent draughts to significantly improve the thermal comfort of the occupants.

As a wood product, they can be maintained by an owner with basic skills, and may be repaired in a cost-effective way when the need arises. Storm windows can also incorporate coatings to reduce the 'greenhouse effect' that can cause summer overheating.



Energy Efficient Heritage Homes:

Heritage homes constitute approximately half of the officially recognised historic places in British Columbia. Improving the energy efficiency of these valuable community assets requires a sensitive approach if they are to continue to contribute to the special character of the built environment. In recognition of this contribution, LiveSmart offers assistance with the purchase of wood storm windows for heritage homes.

Eligibility:

Eligible homes must be formally recognized (through designation or inclusion on a heritage register) by a local or regional government. To access these special LiveSmart provisions, please contact your local government office to find out whether your home has formal heritage recognition.

Technical Aspects:

Installation of a wood storm window decreases the rate that the window assembly transmits heat to the outside and cold to the inside of a home. The following ranges of thermal transmittance for wood windows have been calculated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

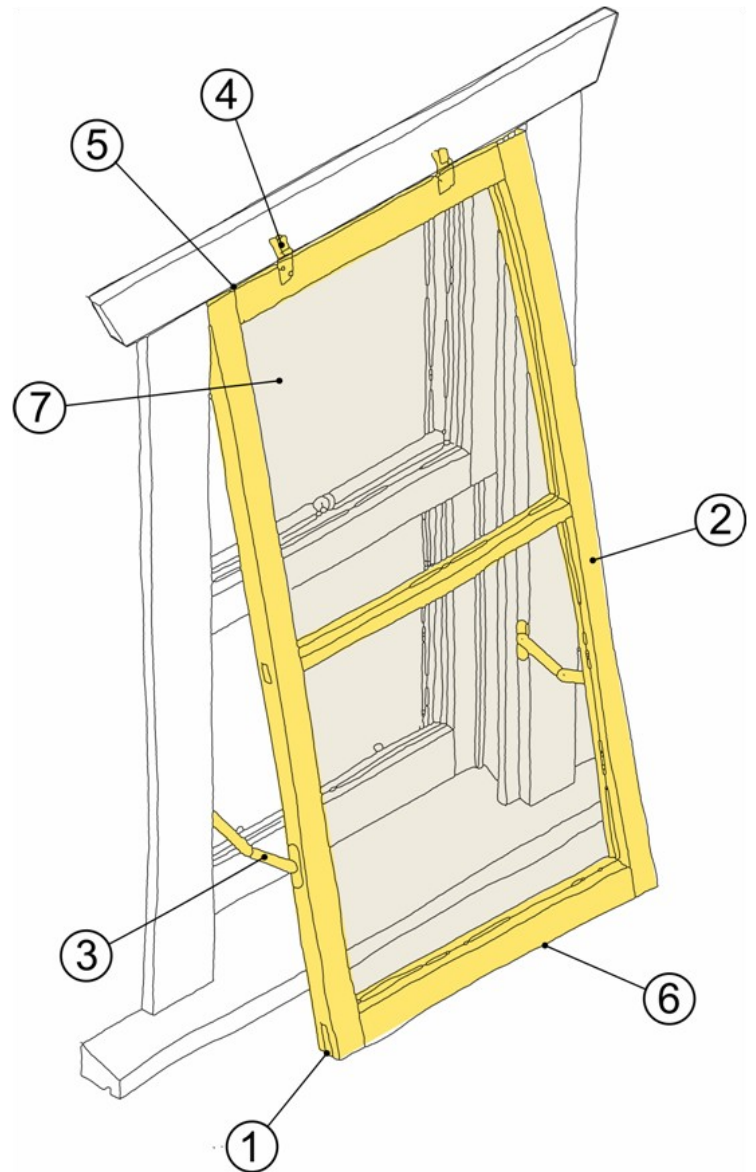
- ◆ A single-glazed wood window achieves a U value in the range 5.62W/m²K to 4.99W/m²K.
- ◆ A single-glazed wood storm window affixed over an existing single glazed wood window achieves a U value in the range 2.78W/m²K to

Design and Performance Criteria for LiveSmart Wood Storm Windows

LiveSmart grants are available for traditionally-constructed wood storm windows. To be eligible for a LiveSmart grant, a wood storm window shall be:

1. constructed from well-seasoned/kiln-dried Douglas Fir, or an equivalent durable exterior-use wood, jointed with through-mortise and tenon joinery for longevity;
2. primed and undercoated prior to glazing and painted after glazing;
3. fitted with opening hardware that permits use for ventilation (and egress where required) even when in position (except in the case of wood storms installed over windows not designed to open such as picture or 'piano' windows);
4. attached using 'storm hangers' permitting easy removal and storage in the summer and for ease of access to the existing window beneath;
5. manufactured to a snug fit to the interior or exterior of the existing window;
6. installed with bottom rail slope similar to that of the existing window sill with a rebate or drip channel to prevent the entry of driving rain and standing water;
7. single glazed, laminate glazed or thermally glazed.

To obtain the highest efficiency from the installation of a wood storm, the existing window over which the storm is being affixed should be well-maintained, in good decorative order, operable, tight fitting and, where appropriate retrofitted with durable draught exclusion such as sprung-bronze weather stripping.



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To learn more about this program and other ways of increasing the efficiency of your traditionally-constructed home, contact:

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