

# DESIGN AND REMODELING *trends*

## let in the light

### How to incorporate windows into your design

Whether you're remodeling a kitchen or adding living space to your home, you want to maximize your natural light, ventilation and energy efficiency. The right windows can help you do all of these things. Windows contribute to your overall design by reflecting the architecture of your home, and adding a dose of decorative style. Here are five things to consider when choosing windows.

#### Follow the sun.

Windows are portals for light and fresh air. The design of the windows should take into consideration the path of the sun over the course of a day. A breakfast nook lit by a fresh blast of sunlight can jumpstart your day, and the sunsetting rays can provide a cozy relaxing atmosphere. Incorporate Low-E (low-emissivity) windows, especially on the south side of a home, to reflect the sun's heating rays away from your house, while providing the lighting nature intended.

#### Maximize your view.

Living in the New River Valley, we are lucky to have beautiful natural scenery right in our backyards. Consider designing windows with grilles only on the top half. This way, you can still get the divided-light look you want, without blocking your view.

#### Create a focal point.

Special shape windows are an easy way to add architectural interest to your room and highlight other features of your home. For example, use one perfect circle window as a simple design accent or frame a fireplace mantel with windows.

#### Add livable space.

Replace old "picture" windows with a bay and bow window to affordably add square footage. Add a window seat to create a cozy seating area or a place to display books and decorative objects. You can even put a hinge on the top of your window seat and use the space below for storage.

#### Hire a professional.

We've seen do-it-yourself or uncertified contractors replace windows with disastrous results. Plus, if you buy windows from a company that won't be around in five or ten years, it will be hard to get replacement parts or warranty repairs. We recently became a Pella Certified Contractor, which means we are certified by a reputable window manufacturer to properly install high quality products. Working with a Pella Certified Contractor means you can trust your investment.



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# WINDOW *solutions*

Whether to achieve energy efficiency or replace aging parts, replacing your windows can be a good investment for your home. Below are two of our recent window projects.

## *Bring Life to an Aging Exterior*

With many older homes, the original company that provided the windows is no longer in business. So as springs, latches and parts break, there is nowhere to go for replacement parts. Plus the sills and frames can sag and rot, causing the exterior to have a drab, worn down appearance. New windows from a reputable company, like Pella, can renew the exterior of the home and also provide a long-term warranty on replacement parts as the years go by.

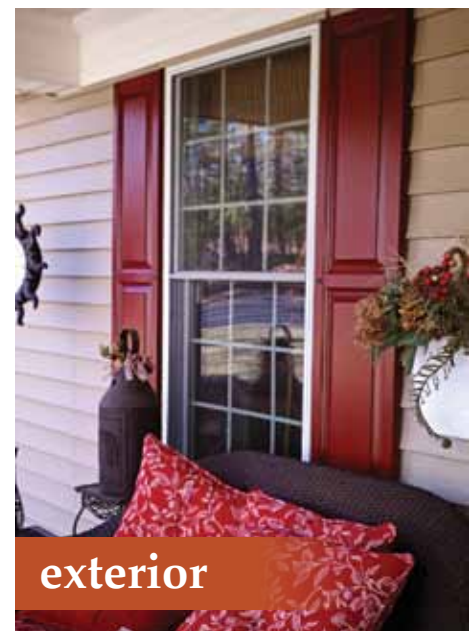


## *Increase Energy Efficiency*



According to the national Remodeling 2013 Cost vs. Value Report, you can recoup about 75% of your investment by replacing your windows. On top of this is the monthly savings you'll experience in your heating and cooling bill. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, homes in our region can save up to \$213 a year by replacing single pane windows with ENERGY STAR models. As a Pella Certified Contractor, we use high quality windows that are 74% more energy efficient than a single pane wood window.

Also, most contractors fit windows inside an existing frame during replacement. This reduces the amount of glass and produces less light transmission. Instead, we use a new construction-style window to increase light transmission and efficiency.



# employee SPOTLIGHT



In 2011, Alex Lawrence began working as a carpenter for BRHI, with over 10 years of professional construction experience.



Born in North Carolina, Alex's family returned to Blacksburg at age of five. This is the same time he realized his interest in construction, while helping his father build their family home. Growing up he would spend his time tinkering with woodworking and building numerous buildings on their family farm.

Alex says the thing he enjoys most about working with BRHI are the qualities of honesty, integrity and good workmanship, which are the backbone of the company. This fits well with his personal keys to success, which are to set high, yet obtainable, goals and to maintain a positive outlook in all aspects of his life.

"Our teamwork is important, because we all share the same goal, which is to do a job right. We're provided the tools and resources to accomplish just that, and always encouraged to strive for excellence."

Outside of work, Alex is very family oriented and adores his two daughters, Madisyn and Makenna. He enjoys spending time outdoors and can often be found hiking, camping, hunting and farming.

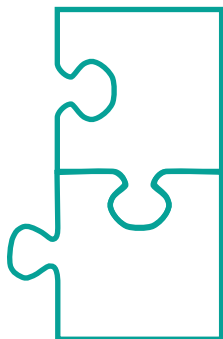
**YOU'RE INVITED TO  
JOIN US FOR THE  
2013 HOME EXPO!**

**MARCH 8, 9 & 10  
CHRISTIANSBURG REC CENTER  
TICKETS: \$5, KIDS UNDER 18 FREE**

**YOU COULD WIN  
A FREE CARPENTER-FOR-A-DAY  
(THAT'S \$600 OF FREE HANDYMAN WORK!)**

**ALSO COME CATCH UP THE BRHI TEAM & CHAT ABOUT YOUR PROJECTS FOR 2013  
QUESTIONS? VISIT [WWW.BLUERIDGEHI.COM/MISSINGPIECE](http://WWW.BLUERIDGEHI.COM/MISSINGPIECE)**

**DO YOU  
HAVE THE  
MISSING  
PIECE?**



## thinking about aging-in-place improvements?

### GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR HOME MODIFICATIONS

A new program available for local residents provides forgivable grants up to \$15,000 to help make homes in the New River Valley more accessible. As a Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) contractor, BRHI has been selected as an approved program contractor by the New River Valley HOME Consortium.

Home accessibility modification grants can be used for: an exterior ramp, sidewalk or driveway; handicapped bathrooms, including sink, toilet, shower, grab bars and vanities; kitchen cabinets and sink; carpentry to widen doors; and replacement of floor coverings. 100% of the funds are forgiven after five years. Eligible households must have an income below 80% of the area median income adjusted for family size and locality.

For more information visit:  
[www.sustainableblacksburgva.org/home\\_energy\\_upgrades/](http://www.sustainableblacksburgva.org/home_energy_upgrades/)

### BRHI ADDS TWO NEW CAPS DESIGNATIONS

Chuck Hammack, Designer & Estimator, and Susan Davidson, Office Manager & Selections Coordinator, have both earned their Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist designation from the National Association of Home Builders. They bring knowledge necessary to meet the unique needs of older or disabled owners or their visitors.



NEWSLETTER OF:



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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



# Project Files

## Proper Window Flashing

### problem

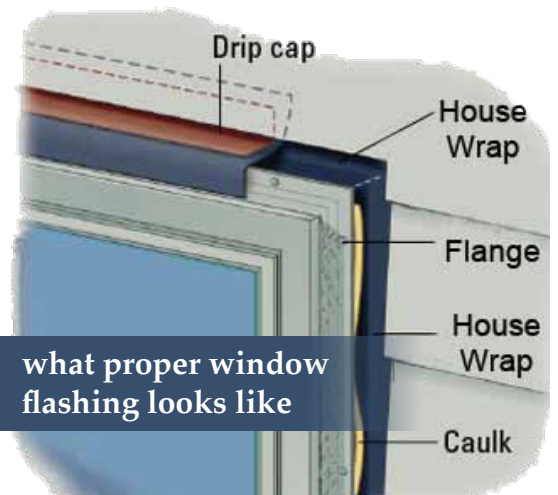
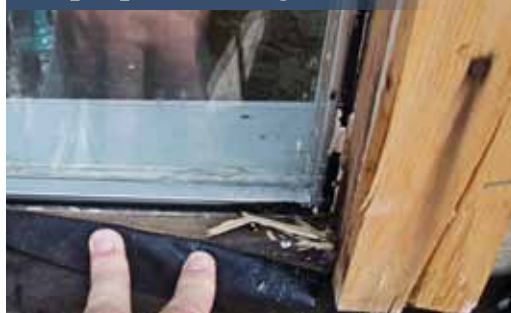
While replacing the exterior siding on a client's home, we discovered that the new windows installed by another company were not flashed properly, causing significant leaks and rot.

### solution

Some contractors only rely on caulk to seal a window, which could last anywhere from three weeks to two years. Either way, eventually water will get behind the window and begin to cause rot and damage to your home. We use proper materials and techniques to seal the window and prevent moisture from getting into the walls.



the result of improper flashing



what proper window flashing looks like