

\$1500 Energy Tax Credit Information and Procedures

If you're planning a window or door replacement project, then now's the time. That's because you can receive a tax credit for 30% of the cost of qualified energy-efficient windows and doors, up to \$1,500.

This is a huge opportunity for you. The tax credit was originally a measly \$200 for windows and up to \$500 for doors. Now Congress and the President have passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, aka "The Stimulus." Inside is a provision that triples the old tax credit.

This isn't just a handout. To qualify for the new Tax Credit, you have to be a smart shopper and buy the most energy-efficient windows. Energy Star certification, the old standard, doesn't cut it anymore. The new standard will help our country become energy independent. Plus, better windows save you money on energy bills and keep you comfortable all year round.

What Windows and Doors Qualify For The Tax Credit?

Only windows and doors with a U-Factor of .30 or less qualify. U-Factor is a measure of the window's overall energy-efficiency. Many windows have U-Factors of .31 or .32. Those don't qualify.

Windows and doors also need a Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) of .30 or less. A low SHGC blocks the blistering heat that comes through windows in the summer, reducing the load on your air conditioning. Once again, .31 or .32 aren't good enough. It has to be exactly .30 or less.

U-Factor and SHGC are independently tested and verified for windows by the National Fenestration Rating Council. Any reputable window will have a NFRC sticker.

How To Make Sure Your New Windows Qualify

To get your \$1,500 tax credit, you need to shop smart. Many windows and doors out there don't meet the new requirements—even some high-end brands you've heard of. A lot of companies haven't processed or don't even know about the new tax credit. There's a lot of confusion about this right now—you don't want to be left empty-handed.

Here's what you need to do: Make sure that any replacement window or door you buy has a U-Factor and SHGC of .30 or less. If the window company won't show you the NFRC sticker certifying the ratings, walk away. If you're unsure or suspicious, visit the NFRC at <http://www.nfrc.org>. You can verify ratings in the product directory or contact them directly.

How To Claim Your \$1,500 Energy-Efficient Window and Door Tax Credit

1. Purchase and install any replacement window, patio door, or entry door with a U-Factor and SHGC of .30 or below between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010.
2. Save your receipt and each window and door performance label (NFRC label) with your tax documents.
3. Claim your tax credit on your Federal filing for the 2009 or 2010 tax year.

Terms and Limitations

- The tax credit is for the cost of the product only and does not include installation costs. Be sure to ask for a sales receipt that shows the cost of the product only.
- The tax credit is 30% of the amount paid up to a \$1,500 maximum.
- If a combination of windows and doors are purchased, the total maximum credit is \$1,500.
- This is a new tax credit for 2009/2010.

Be confident that you're getting replacement windows and doors that qualify you for the \$1,500 tax credit. Make sure windows and doors that are NFRC-certified have U-Factors and SHGCs of .30 or less.