

Making Window Film History

Tips for Historical and Mid-Century Homes

Introduction

Nothing quite captures the beauty of architecture like mid-century, historical homes and buildings. Considered historic after 50 years, these aging edifices are always eye-catching and interesting.

And while historical buildings boast lots of character, they also come with a laundry list of responsibilities in terms of upkeep and honoring historical regulations.

Things to consider

When it comes to owning a historical home or building, owners are often required to honor the original architecture and historical design. Unfortunately, very few of these homes are up to today's energy efficiency standards, so it can become a real frustration when looking to make the living environment more energy friendly.



Moreover, windows typically account for 15 to 30 percent of the total heating load in a structure, and during the warmer months may account for over 50 percent of the cooling load. Additionally, windows in historical homes and buildings fail to offer adequate protection from UV rays which may result in cumulative damage to floors, furnishings, and other antiques.

In many cases, the windows in these buildings cannot be replaced due to structural concerns or restrictions by to the National Park Service's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings. Owners are often left with two options: preserve the windows in place or replace them in kind.

So what happens when you own a historical home or older building but find yourself wishing you had a more energy efficient option? Can anything be done to maintain that historical charm while at the same time combat drafts and hotspots? Are there any *affordable* options out there?



When replacing your windows isn't an option

It's important to recognize that replacing your windows is not your only option when looking to make your home more energy efficient.

If historical regulations or structural issues are prohibiting you from opting for new, energy efficient windows, you should consider professionally installed window film.

Window film is a thin sheet of window coating, professionally and permanently installed to deliver a range of high-value benefits. The film can be professionally installed on almost any window - no matter the size or shape and comes in a range of shades from visually clear to darker shades. Opting for window film installation can allow owners to honor the historical beauty of their home with little to no impact on the visual design to the structure.

As the owner of an historical building, care must also be given to what lies inside the structure. Untreated windows may only block as much as 25% of UV rays from passing through your windows.

These rays enter your home and damage the next thing in their path - your floor, furnishings, antiques. Because professionally window film blocks up to 99% of UV rays from passing through unprotected glass, an extra layer of protection for interiors is added, helping prevent continued fading and disintegration. In fact, window film is so protective that it is used to preserve the U. S. Constitution.

For mid-century homes, window film is more environmentally friendly than total window replacement. Window film delivers seven times the energy saving benefits per dollar spent when compared with installing replacement windows. It also preserves the window frame and casement so that these materials do not need to be discarded.



Ready for installation?

It is possible to boost your home's energy efficiency, no matter what the age. Honoring the architectural beauty of your historical or older home should be top priority; however, not at the expense of living in comfort.

A professional installation of window film can protect your cherished home or building. For a single family home, window film installation can range from \$3 to \$11 per square foot, a very reasonable expense when compared to purchasing new windows.

Interested in learning more? The International Window Film Association (IWFA) has accredited, professional window film installers located across the country to help you with your historic project. For more information, or to find your local window film dealer, please visit www.iwfa.com/BusinessLocator/FindanInstaller.