

### Smaller-Scale Home Improvements Continue To Pay Off

(NAPSA)—Recent research reveals there is some good news for homeowners these days: Maintenance-related home remodeling projects and moderately priced upgrades will continue to provide stable paybacks, according to Remodeling magazine's Cost vs. Value report.

#### A View To Save

One such trend is vinyl window replacement. The report cites that, unlike other remodeling ventures, vinyl window replacement is a necessary repair that involves durable, low-maintenance materials and improves the curb appeal of a home.

#### Save Energy And Money

What's more, according to the Efficient Windows Collaborative, the heating bill for a 2,000-square-foot home with high-performance, energy-efficient windows is 39 percent lower than a comparable home with single-pane, aluminum windows—equating to hundreds of dollars saved a year.

There are three basic elements that make up an energy-efficient window:

**1. The Glass.** The kind of glass affects how much of the sun's light and heat get through. This is measured as a "solar heat gain coefficient." Lower numbers mean more efficiency, which saves energy and helps keep home furnishings from fading.

**2. The Spacer.** The area between the window's panes and the frame can be made to keep inside surface temperatures warm, reduce dampness and keep the windows sealed. Quality foam spacers can also keep out noise.



**One investment that makes sense and offers immediate payback for homeowners is energy-efficient windows.**

**3. The Frame.** Frames can be designed to provide more strength and performance and less noise and heat loss.

It may be for these reasons and low-maintenance requirements that vinyl window replacement projects again have a high-return-on-investment rank among remodeling projects across the country.

#### Cut Taxes, Learn More

"One investment that makes sense and offers immediate payback is energy-efficient windows. Not only can they help reduce energy costs, but the revised Federal Energy Tax Credit for 2009 and 2010 can save the homeowner 30 percent of the purchase or up to \$1,500 over the lifetime of the tax credit for qualifying windows," explained Maureen Faccia of Milgard Windows & Doors.

To learn more about durable, energy-efficient windows, visit [www.milgard.com](http://www.milgard.com).

*Note to Editors:* Milgard products are available only in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington D.C., Wisconsin and Wyoming. Information about percent savings and return on investment for specific communities is at [www.costvsvalue.com](http://www.costvsvalue.com).