



WINDOW SELECTION GUIDE

FOR YOUR BARNDOMINIUM

Operating windows, fixed glass, transoms, sidelights,
gable windows, performance, prices, and client tips.

SELECT THE COMPLETE WINDOW PACKAGE

STYLE -> OPERATION -> SIZE -> GLASS -> COLOR -> INSTALLATION

Finalize rough openings and egress requirements before framing and ordering.

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1. START WITH FUNCTION AND LOCATION

Every window should have a purpose: view, ventilation, daylight, safety, or architectural character

OPERABLE WINDOWS

- Single-hung: lower sash opens; economical.
- Double-hung: both sashes move; easier cleaning.
- Casement: hinged sash opens outward; strong seal.
- Awning: opens from the bottom; useful higher on walls.
- Slider: practical for wide openings and simple operation.

FIXED WINDOWS

- Picture window: large view and no moving parts.
- Transom: glass above a door or another window.
- Sidelight: narrow glass beside an entry door.
- Clerestory: high wall glass for daylight and privacy.
- Round, triangle, and trapezoid accent windows.

SELECT BY ROOM

- Bedrooms: ventilation plus code-compliant emergency escape.
- Great room: large views with selected operable units.
- Kitchen: easy-to-reach operation and sink clearance.
- Bathrooms: privacy glass and ventilation.
- Entry: transom and sidelights for daylight.

BARNDOMINIUM DESIGN

- Use larger glass areas to match open rooms and tall ceilings.
- Align window heads for a clean exterior elevation.
- Coordinate black frames with metal siding and roof colors.
- Use fixed glass where ventilation is unnecessary.
- Plan structural headers around large and specialty openings.

DECISIONS BEFORE ORDERING

- Manufacturer, series, frame material, and exterior color.
- Exact rough-opening size and operation.
- Glass package, grids, screens, hardware, and interior finish.
- Tempered-safety-glass locations.
- Flashing method, trim details, and installation responsibility.

DENZEL RECOMMENDATION

Combine fixed picture windows for views with casement or double-hung windows for ventilation. Use transoms, sidelights, and gable-shaped windows only where they improve daylight and the exterior design enough to justify the additional cost.



2. COMMON OPERABLE WINDOWS

Visual comparison of three popular choices for bedrooms, living areas, and offices



SINGLE-HUNG

\$

Only the lower sash moves. Familiar appearance and usually the lowest cost.

DOUBLE-HUNG

\$\$

Both sashes move. Flexible ventilation and easier access for cleaning.

CASEMENT

\$\$\$-\$\$\$

Hinged at the side and cranks outward. Clear opening and strong weather seal.

REFERENCE NOTE

Images are visual references only. Confirm manufacturer operation, screen location, clear opening, egress compliance, hardware, frame depth, color, and final dimensions from the approved window schedule.

3. FIXED GLASS AT WALLS AND DOORS

These windows do not need to open and are used for views, daylight, and entry design



PICTURE WINDOW

\$-\$\$\$

Large fixed pane with no moving parts.
Excellent view, daylight, and value.

TRANSOM WINDOW

\$\$-\$\$\$

Horizontal fixed glass above a door. Adds light
and makes the entry feel taller.

DOOR SIDELIGHTS

\$\$-\$\$\$

Narrow fixed glass beside the entry door.
Bright, premium entry appearance.

REFERENCE NOTE

Transoms and sidelights may require custom door-unit dimensions, larger headers, tempered safety glass, additional flashing, and upgraded trim. Confirm the complete entry assembly before framing.

4. WINDOWS FOR TALL AND SLOPED WALLS

Architectural glass can fill high walls and follow a vaulted barndominium roofline



CLERESTORY

\$\$-\$\$\$

High rectangular fixed glass brings daylight deeper into the room while preserving privacy.

TRIANGLE / TRAPEZOID

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Custom fixed shapes follow vaulted ceilings and create a dramatic gable wall.

ROUND ACCENT

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

A fixed circular window adds character to a gable, loft, bath, or stair area.

REFERENCE NOTE

Special shapes are typically custom ordered, take longer to produce, and cost more to frame, flash, trim, and replace. Verify dimensions from field conditions and approved structural plans.



5. MORE OPERABLE WINDOW OPTIONS

Additional opening styles for kitchens, bathrooms, garages, shops, and wide wall openings



SLIDING WINDOW

\$\$\$

One sash slides horizontally. Easy operation and a practical choice for wide openings.

AWNING WINDOW

\$\$-\$\$\$

Top-hinged sash opens outward at the bottom. Useful high on walls and for light ventilation.

HOPPER WINDOW

\$\$-\$\$\$

Bottom-hinged sash tilts inward. Common in basements and utility spaces.

REFERENCE NOTE

Confirm operating direction, insect-screen location, hardware clearance, rain exposure, emergency-egress suitability, and compatibility with furniture, countertops, walkways, and exterior metal trim.



6. WINDOW FRAME MATERIAL COMPARISON

Frame material affects appearance, maintenance, thermal performance, strength, and price



WHITE VINYL

\$

Low maintenance and generally the most economical. Profile is usually wider.

FIBERGLASS / COMPOSITE

\$\$\$

Stable, durable, and available with slimmer modern profiles. Higher initial cost.

WOOD / CLAD WOOD

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Warm premium interior with protected exterior cladding. Requires finish coordination.

REFERENCE NOTE

Actual frame thickness, color, texture, corner joints, sightlines, exterior cladding, interior finish, warranties, and performance differ by manufacturer and product series. Review physical samples before approval.

7. WINDOW GRID AND GRILLE STYLES

Grilles change the character of the same window and should coordinate with doors and exterior elevations



NO GRILLES

\$

Clean modern view with maximum uninterrupted glass. Often preferred for contemporary barndominiums.

COLONIAL GRID

\$\$

Even rectangular panes create a traditional farmhouse appearance.

PRAIRIE GRID

\$\$\$-\$\$\$

Lines near the glass perimeter create a refined modern-Craftsman appearance.

REFERENCE NOTE

Select grille pattern, width, color, and construction type. Grilles-between-glass are easier to clean; simulated divided-light systems provide more exterior depth but cost more.

8. PRIVACY AND DECORATIVE GLASS

Glass texture controls privacy while allowing daylight into bathrooms, entries, and selected utility rooms



CLEAR GLASS

\$

Best view and maximum clarity, but provides little daytime or nighttime privacy.

FROSTED / OBSCURE

\$\$

Diffuses the view while transmitting light. Strong choice for bathrooms.

REEDED GLASS

\$\$\$-\$\$\$

Vertical texture adds privacy and a decorative modern appearance.

REFERENCE NOTE

Privacy glass is translucent, not a complete substitute for blinds at night. Confirm tempered-safety-glass requirements, glass orientation, cleaning, pattern availability, and whether privacy film or shades are also needed.



9. FRAME MATERIALS AND GLASS PERFORMANCE

Compare maintenance, appearance, efficiency, durability, and budget

FRAME MATERIALS

- Vinyl: economical, low maintenance, and widely available.
- Fiberglass/composite: stable, durable, slimmer profiles, higher cost.
- Aluminum: narrow modern frames; use a thermally improved system.
- Wood/clad wood: premium interior appearance with exterior protection.
- Match frame depth to wall assembly and interior jamb extensions.

GLASS OPTIONS

- Double-pane insulated glass is the normal starting point.
- Low-E coatings help control heat transfer and solar gain.
- Argon gas can improve insulated-glass performance.
- Tempered glass is required in certain hazardous locations.
- Obscure glass provides privacy in bathrooms and selected entries.

PERFORMANCE LABELS

- U-factor: lower generally means better insulation.
- SHGC: lower admits less solar heat; orientation matters.
- Air leakage: compare tested product performance.
- Visible transmittance: how much daylight passes through.
- Use ENERGY STAR climate-zone recommendations as a selection guide.

INSTALLATION SYSTEM

- Correct rough opening, sill support, shimming, and fastening.
- Compatible flashing tape, sill pan, drainage plane, and sealant.
- Integrate with metal siding, housewrap, trims, and interior air seal.
- Do not block window drainage paths.
- Follow manufacturer instructions and local inspection requirements.

IMPORTANT

A high-performance window can still leak air or water if it is installed incorrectly. Product selection and installation details must be coordinated with the wall system, metal siding, interior finish, and local code requirements.



10. ROOM-BY-ROOM WINDOW PLANNING

Balance views, furniture, privacy, ventilation, emergency escape, and exterior appearance

GREAT ROOM + DINING

- Use large fixed glass for the main view.
- Add selected casements or awnings for ventilation.
- Consider clerestory or gable glass at vaulted ceilings.
- Coordinate glare with television and furniture placement.
- Plan motorized shades and electrical power for high windows.

BEDROOMS + OFFICE

- Each sleeping room needs compliant emergency escape and rescue opening where required.
- Check sill height, clear opening, and exterior access.
- Use operable windows for ventilation.
- Consider solid-core doors and window placement for privacy.
- Coordinate windows with beds, desks, and closets.

KITCHEN + BATH

- Select an easy-to-operate window above the sink.
- Avoid conflicts with faucets, cabinets, and countertops.
- Use obscure glass where privacy is needed.
- Confirm tempered-glass requirements near tubs and showers.
- Coordinate exhaust ventilation independently from the window.

ENTRY + GARAGE

- Transom and sidelights brighten the foyer.
- Balance privacy with clear or decorative glass.
- Use safety glazing where required.
- Coordinate entry-unit width with structure and porch design.
- Select durable, easy-clean units for shop and garage areas.

PLAN REVIEW TIP

Window drawings must show size, location, operation, safety glazing, and bedroom egress information. Final requirements depend on the adopted local code, the specific location, and the authority having jurisdiction in Iowa.



11. RELATIVE PRICE AND BUDGET CONTROL

Use relative cost levels for early decisions; final pricing requires an approved manufacturer schedule

SINGLE-HUNG VINYL

\$

Best entry-level operating choice

FIXED PICTURE WINDOW

\$-\$\$\$

Cost grows quickly with glass size

DOUBLE-HUNG VINYL

\$\$

More operation and cleaning flexibility

SLIDER OR AWNING

\$\$-\$\$\$

Size and hardware affect cost

CASEMENT WINDOW

\$\$-\$\$\$

Premium hardware and tighter seal

TRANSOM WINDOW

\$\$-\$\$\$

Extra opening, header, flashing, and trim

DOOR SIDELIGHTS

\$\$-\$\$\$

Often priced as part of entry assembly

FIBERGLASS / COMPOSITE

\$\$\$

Higher material and product-series cost

WOOD / CLAD WOOD

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Premium appearance and finish choices

TRIANGLE / CUSTOM SHAPE

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Custom fabrication and installation

PRICE NOTE

\$ = lowest relative cost and \$\$\$\$ = highest relative cost. Final cost depends on brand, series, material, color, size, operation, glass, grids, screens, energy package, custom shapes, freight, lead time, headers, flashing, trim, lifts, and installation complexity.



12. CLIENT SELECTION AND APPROVAL CHECKLIST

Finalize every opening before framing, ordering, and exterior installation

WINDOW SCHEDULE

- ☐ Room and opening number
- ☐ Width and height
- ☐ Operation and handing
- ☐ Rough-opening dimensions
- ☐ Egress designation
- ☐ Safety-glass designation

STYLE + FINISH

- ☐ Frame material and series
- ☐ Exterior frame color
- ☐ Interior color or wood
- ☐ Grid pattern
- ☐ Screen type and color
- ☐ Hardware finish

GLASS + PERFORMANCE

- ☐ Double-pane glass
- ☐ Low-E coating
- ☐ Gas fill
- ☐ U-factor and SHGC
- ☐ Obscure-glass locations
- ☐ Tempered-glass locations

SPECIAL WINDOWS

- ☐ Picture-window sizes
- ☐ Transoms above doors
- ☐ Entry sidelights
- ☐ Clerestory locations
- ☐ Triangle/gable windows
- ☐ Round accent windows

NEXT STEP

Review the preliminary window schedule, elevations, product samples, performance labels, allowances, lead times, and purchasing responsibilities with Denzel Construction before framing or ordering.

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