

# The Calgary Sun

## LET THE SUN SHINE IN

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Page: H21  
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Sunlight enhances our moods it's why most of us enjoy an array of windows in our home.

But as much as we appreciate natural light, windows can significantly impact energy costs, says Mark Antonuk, of ATCO EnergySense.

"Windows can account for a significant amount of heat loss in the winter and, in the summer, allow too much heat inside the home.

"The good news is there are steps we can take to improve the efficiency of our windows," says Antonuk.

Some of these steps include:

- \* Clean the tracks of sliding windows regularly. Dirt in the tracks can throw the windows out of alignment and cause air leakage.

- \* Make sure the seal between the glass panes and frame is in good condition. If it needs repair, use a glazing compound instead of putty. Although it costs more, the glazing will last longer and provide a more effective seal.

- \* Apply plastic film to your windows. A product designed for this purpose is sold in most hardware stores, and is easily applied using a hand-held hairdryer.

- \* Plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home. They will shade the windows in summer, but allow sunlight to enter once they drop their leaves.

- \* It may cost a little more to replace window coverings with blinds or drapes backed with an insulation material and a vapour barrier with reflective surface, but this will pay off in energy savings.

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