**Ensuring the Longevity of Your Windows**

Generally speaking, windows should last between 20-25 years. They have the capability of lasting much longer than this if properly maintained. Vice versa, your window’s life could be drastically shortened if not cared for properly.

Replacing windows, while always necessary eventually, can be quite an expensive project. So, we’ve compiled a few tips to help you get the maximum life out of your windows.

**Don’t Use Plastic Window Coverings**

While these can be great to keep heat in your home during cooler months, they can also trap condensation on your window causing premature deterioration of the window. Not to mention, if you add a film to your window, your window manufacturer may void any warranty you have on the windows.

**Open Your Blinds Once in a While**

Similar to the plastic window coverings, if your blinds are closed all the time, you start to trap condensation on your window reducing its useful life.

**Skip the Wood Windows**

While wood windows can certainly be beautiful, think about going with a vinyl or fiberglass option. Wood windows rot more quickly and require a lot more maintenance.

**Clean Your Windows Regularly**

This one may seem obvious, yet if your windows aren’t dusted and cleaned regularly, you could be promoting premature deterioration. Make sure you don’t use too much water when cleaning your wood windows since too much water could cause wood rot. Use warm water and a mild detergent to clean your windows and glass cleaner to clean the window glass.

**Open your Windows from Time to Time**

On a beautiful, sunny and warm day, open your windows and let the breeze come through! Not only will this feel great, but you’ll actually be doing your windows a favor. You need to make sure to open them occasionally to air out the sash of the window (the sash is the part of the window that moves and has glass in it).  If you keep your window closed for too long and water gets under the sash, the window will become difficult to open. When you are able to open the window, you risk causing major damage not only to the sash, but your entire window frame. Especially if you have wooden casement windows.

**Inspect Them Regularly**

Twice a year, it’s a good idea to walk around your house and inspect your windows. Make sure they easily open and close with ease. Make sure they fit properly and that you see no gaps. Ensure that there are no leaks, cracks and that the caulking is still in good shape.