



The 2026 Window Readiness Checklist

Is your home ready for a designer upgrade? Before you invest in the latest 2026 window treatments, use this checklist to ensure your windows are structurally sound and ready to showcase your new style.

1. The Foundation: Frames & Sills

- **Check for "Soft Spots":** Press on your wooden sills. If the wood feels spongy, you have wood rot that needs repair before heavy drapes are installed.
- **Inspect the Finish:** Are your frames peeling or cracked? For the natural wood trend, your frames should be restored to match the organic textures of your new shades.
- **Structural Strength:** If you are planning smart motorization, ensure the upper frame is sturdy enough to hold the extra weight of motors and battery packs.

2. The Clarity: Glass & Seals

- **The "Fog" Test:** Look for moisture or a milky haze between the glass panes. If you see it, your thermal seal has failed.
- **Surface Integrity:** Check for deep scratches or "hard water" stains. Floor-to-ceiling drapes put a spotlight on the glass; make sure it is crystal clear.
- **UV Check:** If you are choosing bold jewel tones, check if your glass has UV-protective coating to prevent your new fabrics from fading.

3. The Function: Hardware & Mechanics

- **Smooth Operation:** Open and close every window. If a sash is stuck or "heavy", a motorized system will likely burn out or fail.
- **Lock Alignment:** Ensure locks meet perfectly. Drafts usually start at the meeting rail, which can ruin the effectiveness of energy-efficient treatments.
- **Crank & Balance Check:** For café curtains or Roman shades, ensure the window stays open at any height without sliding down.

4. The Performance: Insulation

- **The Draft Test:** On a windy day, run your hand along the edges of the window. If you feel air, your layered treatments will struggle to keep the room temperature regulated.
- **Seal Integrity:** Check the caulking around the exterior. Fresh seals prevent moisture from reaching your new custom-made fabrics.

Checked a "No" Box?

Don't worry — most window issues can be repaired for a fraction of the cost of replacement. Apex Window Werks specializes in making your windows "trend-ready".

Schedule your free inspection and get 2026-ready.