

As spring arrives some homeowners' begin to look at their exterior projects including siding, windows and gutter. If choosing to hire a contractor, make sure they are locally licensed and insured. Using Chamber Member's is a great source to finding reputable businesses.

Questions to consider include cost, timeline, material quality and options as well as warranties. The best approach is to first replacing doors and windows then siding, soffit, fascia and gutter.

For a general reference siding and windows can be looked at as equal cost investments with gutters significantly less than either. Both nationally and locally the majority of siding and windows used is vinyl due to cost effectiveness and very low maintenance.

Siding options include vinyl, hardboard and steel and are offered in various colors and styles with vinyl being the most cost effective followed by hardboard and then steel.

Window frames can be custom built in vinyl, fiberglass or wood and with or without lowE glass. LowE helps maintain constant interior temperature and blocks out the majority of UV rays from damaging the home's interior. I would emphasis lowE glass as a must for any application. Vinyl is the most cost effective window frame followed by fiberglass and then wood frames.

Gutter options include vinyl and aluminum. Seamless aluminum will be less likely to leak.

A quality contractor will not pressure the homeowner but rather explain the options available, answer questions and make suggestions.

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