



MITCH ALBOM

Nobody roots for Goliath, so we're the bully

America is the big guy. Iraq is the small guy. Because of that, no matter what we do, certain perceptions will never change.

So even though America, the big guy, has an army of volunteers, while Iraq, the small guy, pulls men from their homes and threatens to kill their loved ones if they don't fight — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, wears army uniforms and rides in army tanks, while Iraq, the small guy, wears civilian clothes and drives Toyotas and blends in, waiting for an ambush — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, doesn't fight with chemical or biological weapons, while Iraq, the little guy, has used them before, on its own people, and will use them again if given the chance — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, drops leaflets saying we don't want to hurt you, here's what to do so you don't get shot, while Iraq, the small guy, allegedly shoots anyone who is found with those leaflets — we, the big guy, are the bully.

You notice a pattern?

Pretending to be civilians

Even though America, the big guy, tries to aid surrendering civilians, while Iraq, the small guy, has its soldiers pretend to be those civilians, who then pull out weapons and attack us — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, tries to clear a port to bring in humanitarian supplies, while Iraq, the small guy, lays mines in that very water — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, provides food and medical attention to any captured prisoner, while Iraq, the small guy, fires guns into a river hoping to kill a downed American pilot — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, sees its own citizens protesting, blocking traffic, disagreeing with the war, and tolerates it because it is part of who we are, while Iraq, the small guy, cuts out a man's tongue and lets him bleed to death in the street — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, has an open press, hundreds of embedded reporters, and nightly criticism of our efforts, while Iraq has a government-run TV station that plays pro-Saddam videos and urges Iraqi's to "slit the enemy's throats" — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, prays for the liberation of Iraq, while Iraq, the little guy, prays for the destruction of America — we, the big guy, are the bully.

What's wrong with this picture?

Shooting behind women, children

Even though America, the big guy, spends billions for bombs that will spare civilians, while Iraq, the small guy, shoots from behind women and children in schools and hospitals — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, when confronted with a soldier who allegedly threw grenades at his own men, handcuffs that soldier and takes him to be tried, in a court, with a lawyer, while Iraq, the small guy, reportedly shoots its own reluctant soldiers in the head, no trial, no questions asked — we, the big guy, are the bully.

And even though America, the big guy, is assailed by the Arab world for endangering its "brethren," while that same Arab world never rose to help Iraqi "brethren" when they were being slaughtered by their own leader — we, the big guy, are the bully.

This is how it is. We are the big guy. They are the small guy. Which means parts of the world will always call us the bully, because, as Wilt Chamberlain once said, "Nobody roots for Goliath."

And what these critics keep missing, what is clear and plain and on brutal display every day and night, is one screamingly obvious fact: The biggest bully of all is running the small guy's battle.

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CONSUMER GUIDE

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

New peepers can give a house curb appeal and comfort

By NOVIA KNIGHT AND MARTHA THIERRY
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

Windows are the eyes of a house, often the first things you notice.

Replacing the windows is a surefire way of giving a house a face-lift. And in addition to improving its looks, replacing windows can make a house more comfortable and energy efficient, adding to its value.

Investing in replacement windows can save a house-hold up to 30 percent in heating and cooling costs, according to Alison Tribble, project manager of the Efficient Windows Collaborative, a project of the Alliance to Save Energy.


But purchasing the right windows takes research.

Please see GUIDE, Page 5E


- How individual window companies stack up, **Page 5E**
- Some windows perform better than others, **Page 5E**

WINDOW STYLES

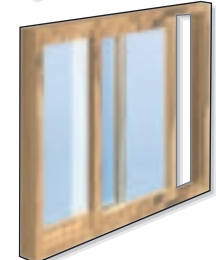
The three general categories of windows are swinging, sliding, and fixed.



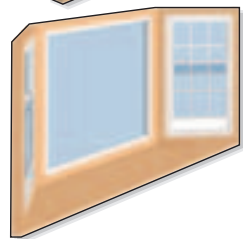
CASEMENT
Casement windows have a sash that is hinged on the side and swings outward. Sashes are usually operated by a cranking mechanism or a push-bar mounted on the frame.



AWNING
Awning windows are hinged at the top and have a sash that swings outward. They are similar to casement windows.

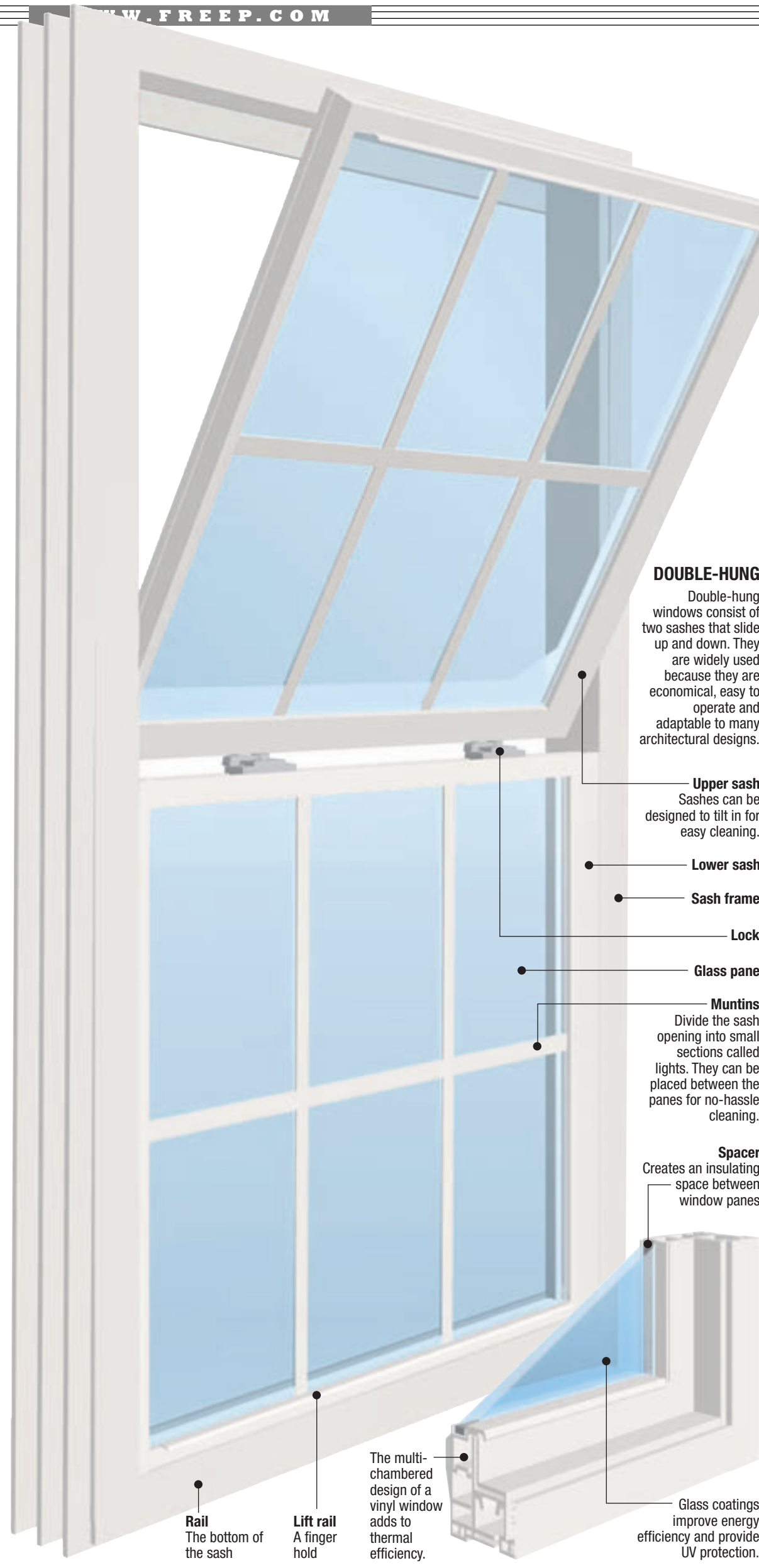


HORIZONTAL SLIDING
Horizontal sliding windows have two or more sashes. At least one of them slides within the window frame.



BAY AND BOW
Bay windows are typically three windows joined together. The center window is often fixed and operating double-hung or casement windows are on the side.
Bow windows consist of four or more casement windows joined together to form a graceful curve.

Sources: Modern Carpentry; www.pella.com



DOUBLE-HUNG

Double-hung windows consist of two sashes that slide up and down. They are widely used because they are economical, easy to operate and adaptable to many architectural designs.

Upper sash
Sashes can be designed to tilt in for easy cleaning.

Lower sash

Sash frame

Lock

Glass pane

Muntins
Divide the sash opening into small sections called lights. They can be placed between the panes for no-hassle cleaning.

Spacer
Creates an insulating space between window panes

Glass coatings
improve energy efficiency and provide UV protection.

Rail
The bottom of the sash

Lift rail
A finger hold

The multi-chambered design of a vinyl window adds to thermal efficiency.

READING AND UNDERSTANDING THE WINDOW LABEL

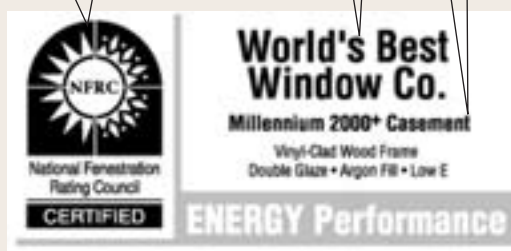
The NFRC, National Fenestration Rating Council, has set up a system allowing window manufacturers to voluntarily prelabel windows that have been tested and meet their energy efficiency standards. The label helps consumers reliably compare windows.

Here is an explanation of the label and the efficient window properties to look for.

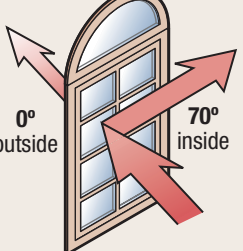
Residential and non-residential rating values for energy efficient properties

Indication that window was independently rated using a procedure established by the NFRC

Window manufacturer's name and product description



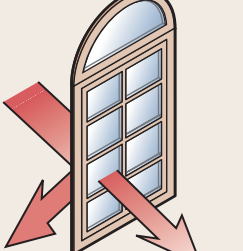
Technical Information			
Res	U-factor	Solar heat gain coefficient	Air leakage
Non-Res	.32	.45	.58
Res	.31	.45	.3



U-FACTOR

U-factor is the measure of heat transfer by the entire window into or out of the structure. The lower the U-factor, the greater a window's resistance to heat flow and the better its insulating value.

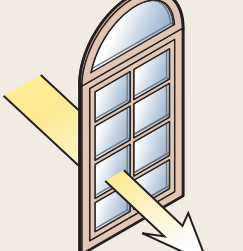
Windows in northern climates require a U-factor of 0.35 or less.



SOLAR HEAT GAIN COEFFICIENT

SHGC is the measure of the solar energy entering through the window. It is expressed as a number between 0 and 1. The lower the SHGC, the less solar heat it transmits.

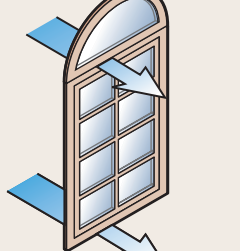
To reduce heating cost, select a window with the highest SHGC you can find, usually 0.30-0.60.



VISIBLE TRANSMITTANCE

VT is the measure of the amount of visible light entering through the window. It is expressed as a number between 0 and 1. The higher the VT, the more daylight that is transmitted.

Select windows with a higher VT to maximize daylight and view.



AIR LEAKAGE

AL is expressed in cubic feet of air passing through a square foot of window area for a closed window. The lower the AL, the less air will pass through cracks in the assembly.

Select windows with an AL of 0.30 or less.