

Energy Efficient Window Manufacturer Explains the Importance of the “Thermal Envelope”

Intus Windows, a leading manufacturer of energy efficient windows, says that a buildings thermal envelope is essential to its energy efficiency.

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According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a thermal envelope is defined as everything about the building that serves to shield the living space from the outdoors. It includes the wall and roof assemblies, insulation, air/vapor retarders, windows, weather stripping, and caulking.

“One of the major problems in both old homes, as well as newly constructed homes is that they have a poor thermal envelope,” says Aurimas Sabulis, managing director of Intus Windows (<http://www.intuswindows.com/>), a worldwide leader in the manufacture of [energy efficient windows](#) used in both net-zero-energy and certified Passivhaus buildings around the world. “When you think of an old house, you think of a drafty building that is cold in the summer and hot in the winter. Money spent on heating and cooling literally goes right out the walls and ceiling.”

Sabulis says that for a home to have the maximum energy efficiency and comfort, the thermal envelope has to be a priority during the design phase, long before groundbreaking.

“Although it is possible to improve the thermal envelope of an existing home with air sealing, wall and attic insulation, and high-performance, [energy efficient window](#) and doors, a new home will deliver the best performance and comfort,” Sabulis says, “as long as it is designed with a tight thermal envelope from the ground up.”



Intus Window



Intus Windows



insulation is.

“The requirements for R-value in walls and attics depend on the climate where the home is located,” says Sabulis. “The walls in standard homes in average climates should have an R-value of around 13 to 15. Attic insulation should be R-30.”

Sabulis says that, depending on the location, the foundation should be insulated as well. The greater the insulation level, he notes, the better the home will perform in terms of energy use and comfort.

“There are other considerations, such as proper air ventilation, that also have to be considered in a home with a very tight thermal envelope,” he explains. “There are a variety of building techniques and technology to ensure the proper R-value is used in the walls of a building.”

Sabulis says that Intus window and door products are constructed to the highest standard, offering high-performance and energy-efficient units that make for the creation of the perfect thermal envelope and air-tightness. Their products have been used in green homes and net zero energy efficient homes throughout the country and around the world.

Intus Windows (<http://intuswindows.com/>) is a pioneer in manufacturing and distributing super energy-efficient windows and doors in the United States. Driven by technology, innovation, and continuous progress Intus Windows energy-efficient windows, doors, and curtain walls lines will fit any commercial, residential or industrial application, and they are Passive House Certified and suitable. For the past 21 years the company has manufactured and installed more than 800,000 windows and doors all over the world, with main export markets in Scandinavia, Central and Eastern Europe. Today, with a manufacturing facility in Lithuania, Intus has entered into the super energy-efficient window market here in the United States. For more information, call 1-888-380-9940.

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