

WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS THWAITES

How do you avoid mistakes before you make them? You bring in an expert on your side.

Building a home or cottage from scratch is a dream for many people. However, ask anyone who has had the opportunity and they'll almost certainly recite a list of things they wish they knew before they started.

Windows are one of the biggest expenses when building, and one of the easiest places to make mistakes. The selection

process is more than just choosing the style that best compliments the architectural design.

Sometimes it's as simple as ensuring the dimensions on the plans match what's being built. As Ken Patterson from Lakeland Windows and Doors can appreciate, measurements have a way of changing from the plans to the framing stage.

"Sometimes changes are not intentional," states Ken. "There's nothing wrong with

taking a final measurement on site before the order is placed to avoid future complications."

Improper installation of new windows can cause problems that may not be obvious right away. For instance, cold drafts entering under the trim usually means the frame is incorrectly installed and could have been easily avoided. Engaging an experienced window installer is your best insurance.

Different direction, different windows

It can also be a mistake to install the same windows on all sides of the house. Not all thermo glass is the same and not all windows in your dream house need the same glass. You may want

to avoid more expensive panes when it is not necessary.

"Windows with southern exposure," suggests Ken, "need glass that defuses rays and blocks heat. It's wonderful to have a bright room, but you don't want to ruin the furniture or heat the place up during the summer."

On the other hand, north-facing windows that never see direct sunlight need to ensure the radiant heat stays inside on those cold winter nights.

Working only with top manufactures Pella and Enerview,

Ken isn't afraid to question a customer's selection if he foresees a problem with the type or style of window they select. His thirty years of experience allows him to foresee obstacles that perhaps a customer may not, such as choosing the wrong opening mechanism, or window frames that block one's view when sitting at a certain level.

Expert advice prevents dreams homes from turning into nightmares. **DS**

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