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How to Make Easy Window Quilts and Conserve Energy
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How To Make Easy Window Quilts and Conserve Energy

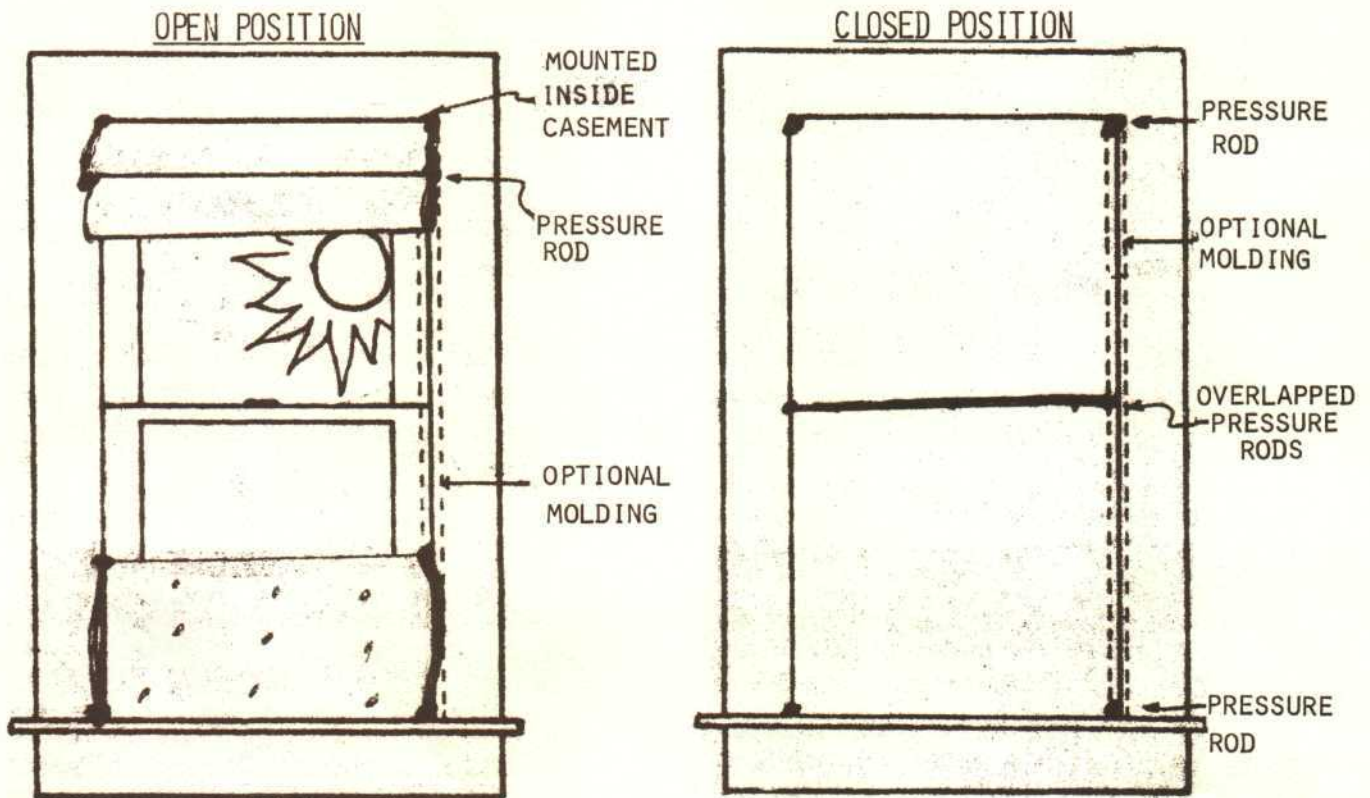
By Bethel Schmidt, St. Joseph County Extension Home Economist, and Isabel Jones, Clothing and Textiles Specialist, MSU

An insulated window quilt is a fitted window treatment that reduces heat loss in winter and heat gain during the summer. It is made with fiberfill insulation and a vapor barrier and is mounted to fit snugly over the window at the sides. Optional molding on sides of a window may be used to hold quilt in place. Some windows have molding as part of its original woodwork.

During the day, window quilts can be folded up or down to adjust for light and sun. They make good nighttime in-

sulation for all windows and especially for north-facing windows on cold, windy days. According to the University of Wisconsin, one 5/8" layer of fiberfill provides an R-value (heat resistance) of 2.5 with an added R-value of 5.5 for three layers. The cost is \$.90 to \$1.50 per square foot, with a payback period of three to five years.

Window quilts are easy to make, requiring few materials and minimal skills for installation and maintenance.



VAPOR BARRIER TOWARD ROOM IN WINTER, TOWARD WINDOW IN SUMMER.

Figure 1.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Double hung sash windows require two quilts, one for the upper sash and another for lower sash. The two quilts overlap at center of the window for a tight fit. Small, single casement windows require one quilt.

-- 4 spring pressure (tension) rods, or 2 for each window sash or quilt.

-- Outer fabric and lining fabric, each cut two (2) inches wider and four (4) inches longer than window sash or opening.

-- 6 millimeter plastic same size as fabric.

-- 1 to 3 layers polyester fiberfill, size of opening (see Figure 1).

LAYERS OF FABRIC FOR FINISHED QUILT

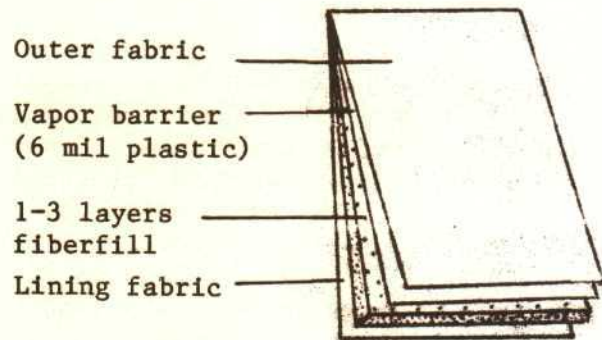
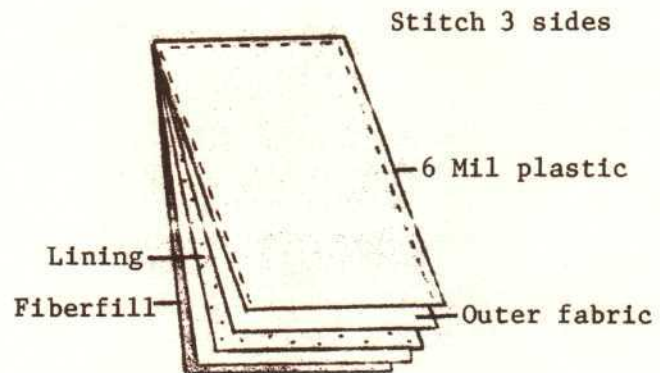


Figure 2.

PREPARE FOR STITCHING



Trim and turn after stitching three sides

Figure 3.

CONSTRUCTION DIRECTIONS

1. Quilt fiberfill to wrong side of lining fabric. Make quilt ties approximately four (4) inches apart. The ties will hold the fiberfill in place for laundering or dry cleaning.
2. Baste vapor barrier (plastic) on four edges to wrong side of outer fabric. The vapor barrier is not quilted because needle punctures will allow moisture to pass through the finished quilt.
3. Place outer fabric and plastic layers and lining and fiberfill layers together with right sides of outer fabric and lining fabrics towards each other. Stitch sides and top, leaving opening for spring tension rod. It is easier not to include

fiberfill in the stitching. The fiberfill will stay in place because of the quilt ties (see Figure 2).

4. Trim vapor barrier and fiberfill before turning. After turning quilt right side out, press and adjust bulk of fiberfill. Stitch upper casing for spring pressure rod.
5. Adjust length of quilt if necessary. Turn bottom quilt edges to inside, leaving space on side for rod insertion. Stitch bottom edge. Stitch bottom rod pocket.
6. Insert spring pressure rods and adjust at window as shown in Figure 1.

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