

The Great Outdoors... Indoors

Who doesn't love the arrival of spring? The sounds, sights and fresh air raise our spirits. People who add a patio room or sunroom to their home can keep that springtime feeling all year round.

By Perry Ruehlen, The Canadian Sunroom Manufacturers Association



A growing number of today's homes are designed with open terraces and interior or side courtyards for entertaining or escaping

the rush of the day. Many homeowners are enclosing these areas with a sunroom which can be used year round in most climates. New technology and engineering have taken the enclosed porch a giant step into the future, with the introduction of reinforced vinyl construction and insulated windows and doors. Without the construction mess and high costs of traditional remodelling, the new sunroom technology allows homeowners to add beautiful outdoor living space that can be heated and cooled to enjoy the outdoor feeling all year long.

As our daily lives become increasingly hectic, the desire for a quiet, peaceful retreat to wind down and recharge the batteries at the end of the day is ever increasing. A sunroom addition is the answer for an increasing number of families across Canada. Couples who have downsized their homes find that a sunroom addition is the perfect way to add extra living space—without extra maintenance! And today's low interest rates and






Consumers appear to be requesting more all season rooms but they are still less than half of three season sales. Canada's climate is not so much the deciding factor on how to build a room but what the homeowner's needs and wants are. A conventional addition provides all the insulation requirements of the building code but little of the glass, atmosphere or lifestyle that a sunroom or solarium provides. Most consumers are ecstatic using their sunrooms for three seasons, sometimes using a portable heat source

on colder days. But even with all season rooms or solariums, consumers are eager to trade any heating or cooling challenges for the extra glass, appearance and lifestyle that these products afford. Wall systems and roof systems require testing for wind and snow loads. Different roof thicknesses are typically available depending on the local snow load. The consumer should make sure the product they are buying has actually been tested by a laboratory and can meet their local loads. Dealing with a Canadian Sunroom Manufacturers Association (CSMA) member is one way to be assured of this.

Quality sunroom products are typically those which can be found at an exclusive local dealer, as opposed to generic products that can be found at several retailers or big box stores. Look for your local CSMA dealer member for options in your area. "Of all the outdoor living products to hit the market, sunrooms really go the distance to meet the growing needs of homeowners who want to enjoy their outdoor spaces all year long," says Wayne Glover, CEO of the CSMA. "As extra space for exercise, entertaining or just a place to relax and unwind, nothing beats a sunroom—from a utility or a cost standpoint," he adds.

For more information about Canadian Sunroom Manufacturers Association and to find a dealer in your area, visit their website at www.canadiansunrooms.org. 

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home refinancing options make the addition of a sunroom economically feasible, as well as a great investment in home value.

According to the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), sunrooms are the fifth most popular remodeling project. Approximately 500,000 sunrooms are built or installed each year, and according to NARI statistics, they are a good investment, returning 70 to 110 percent of their cost at resale, depending on quality and design.

The trend of creating outdoor rooms without "walls" offers unique space to entertain or escape from a busy family or hectic workday. A simple open porch can be transformed with sliding glass windows and doors, adding tile and built-in seating. Flagstone or brick terraces complement the sunroom, giving the ability to showcase built-in grills and fireplaces that can be viewed from the comfort of the "outdoor room."

