Five Design Elements for Every Farmhouse
Possibilities for Windows and Doors
Farmhouse: Comfortably Rugged and Chic

Although it’s been hundreds of years since the first farmhouses appeared in America, the defining elements of the style still hold true in the modern incarnations. Farmhouses aren’t just for farms anymore either. You’ll find them in both rural and urban areas. To talk about Farmhouse style isn’t so much about the architecture but rather the details. From shiplap to painted brick, there’s an opportunity for anyone to create their Farmhouse dream home.

In this idea inspired ebook, we’ll be talking about the role of windows and doors in Farmhouse design, focusing on these five elements:

- Colonial grille windows paired with Farmhouse hallmarks
- Barn doors
- Mahogany finishes
- Entry door details: double, glass and sidelites
- Wood windows and transoms
Colonial Grilles Complement Farmhouse Details

Grilles add character to windows. A traditional Colonial grille has three columns and at least four rows. What makes it Colonial is that each square created by the horizontal and vertical lines is equal. A half Colonial grille would only have the grille at the top of the window.

On the exterior, many farmhouses complement these grilled windows with shutters. Shutters may have a rustic look with a dark wood finish and variations on cross rails or cross bars. These types of shutters really pop on painted brick, another Farmhouse hallmark.
On the interior, a beautiful shiplap wall is the perfect place for a Colonial grille window. Shiplap isn't new; it's actually quite old. But it has become very popular in modern farmhouses. Shiplap is wooden boards often with a rabbet, or groove, cut into the top and bottom. This allows for a tight fit and is what gives shiplap its unique appearance. Shiplap, once used in building sheds or barns, is now a sought-after interior finish. These stacked strips of white wood can be found in living rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and most any room in the house. The shiplap may cover the entire room or just a feature wall. A feature wall of shiplap with a Colonial grille window is a brilliant way to express the Farmhouse aesthetic.
Another standard of a Farmhouse kitchen is the Farmhouse sink. The Farmhouse sink first came to be in a time when there was no running water. Its deep design allows it to hold substantial amounts of water brought in from wells or other natural water sources. The depth of the sink is still a part of the modern Farmhouse sink. It sits much deeper than a typical undermount sink. Cabinets and countertops don’t cover the basin; it’s exposed. The sink juts out slightly more than its surround cabinets. This genesis of this installation was to reduce water overflow from damaging cabinets. Farmhouse sinks can be made from fireclay, porcelain, stainless steel and copper.

So, what’s the perfect complement to a Farmhouse sink? A Colonial grille double-hung window of course. With the modern convenience of dishwashers, you don’t stand at the sink as much as your ancestors did. There is still something serene and beautiful about a view from the kitchen sink.
Barn doors have made their way from the barn to statement pieces in many homes. Barn doors offer both style and function. For style, you can go traditional with a knotty pine or other wood, featuring a “Z-Bar.” You can also try something a little more modern but still Farmhouse approved with white weathered doors. Glass insets in a Colonial pattern are another style to consider. This provides privacy while also giving you a sight line into the other room and allowing light to flow through.

You can use single or double barn doors to create the look you desire. A single barn door is a wonderful way to add a door to a bathroom in a tight spot. Use one as a pantry door, which will pair wonderfully with that Farmhouse sink. The only space requirement for a barn door is having enough wall area for the door to slide out from the doorway. Because they are so versatile, they are a smart alternative to pocket doors, which require internal wall space.

Double barn doors make it easy to divide bigger spaces. They work well for a division between a dining or living room. Barn doors can easily fit any space and provide the look and function you desire.
A mahogany finish replicates the mahogany tree. It is straight-grained with reddish-brown coloring. The mahogany finish is seen throughout farmhouses. It could be used on the hardwood flooring or in wood furniture like a table or cabinet. You’ll also love the look of mahogany on interior doors.

To have a mahogany finish, you don’t need to use the real thing, which is often cost prohibitive. Choose a prefinished interior door that uses a finishing process that looks real and rich. When comparing finishing processes, research the technique to ensure it is durable and represents the most authentic grain patterns.

Mahogany is also a great stain for an exterior door. Again, you don’t have to use real wood. Try a fiberglass door that effortlessly replicates the grain and color of mahogany. Real wood doors are stunning, but fiberglass gives you additional options.

Try mahogany staining on wood windows as well. Mahogany staining on the interior trim and moulding of your wood windows will be a great complement to any other mahogany coloring you have in the room.

The Farmhouse Finish: Mahogany
To capture the Farmhouse look, start with the front door. It’s how you welcome your guests in and sets the tone for the style of your home. There are several front door options for farmhouses. The Dutch door is a favorite with its two independent sections and is quintessential Farmhouse. Weathered white, pops of blue and rustic touches keep Dutch doors a Farmhouse staple.

The Farmhouse Entrance
Beyond the Dutch door, there are other options. Many Farmhouse entry doors are double doors. These may be full lite, with glass from top to bottom, or have small insets of glass. If glass is at the top, raised paneling can accent the bottom. An arched top for double doors is another detail that adds character and depth. Double entry doors can follow a few different colorings: mahogany finishes, light wood or painted. A surprising color like red or yellow is bold yet because of the style not brash. If using a wood finish, match it to the color of your shutters.

Sidelites on both sides of an entry door are also seen on farmhouses. A typical design may include a Colonial grille pattern on the center door, which is mimicked on the sidelites. Transoms are common above the door and its sidelites to create a striking and exquisite entry to your home.
Farmhouse Wood Windows: Real Beauty, Real Durability

Hundreds of years ago in farmhouses built by hand, they all had wood windows. Wood was, of course, plentiful and a natural option for windows. While vinyl has become the leading material for windows, wood isn’t forgotten. And it shouldn’t be in any new or renovated farmhouse.

Can wood stand up to the elements? This is often a concern of any homeowner. Wood windows are an investment, one that anyone needs to know will last. The window industry has become great innovators on taking the best attributes of wood and making them better. Wood, typically pine, can be treated to make it more durable. The treatment process can allow wood to resist rot and moisture issues while also repelling termites. Just be careful; not all wood treatments are the same. Research how the wood is treated, and choose one treated to the core. You should also check the warranty of these products.

Once you know you have a material you can trust, create customized Farmhouse windows. Originally, Farmhouse windows were narrow. Depending on the space you have, you may elect to install four narrow windows versus three wide ones. Add transoms above for even more light. These tall windows immediately signal Farmhouse style.

Also, consider narrow casement windows in a set. Casement windows can swing out, which provides air flow and a charming aesthetic. Imagine casement windows above your Farmhouse sink!

With a treated wood window, you will enjoy the beauty of real wood and the quality and durability you expect.
Farmhouse style has expanded from its humble roots. But hasn’t strayed far. The original aspects of farmhouses are timeless, that’s why they are still loved. From barn doors to narrow windows, Farmhouse style reflects both the rural and modern life. Whimsical details and rustic accents abound in Farmhouse style and give you a world of possibilities.

Windows and doors are unique elements in a home, as they are seen from the interior and exterior. The details and opportunities on both sides can help you create your farmhouse.

Still Humble and Timeless
This eBook was created by your friends at JELD-WEN as a guide to help homeowners, builders, contractors, architects and other professionals incorporate Farmhouse style into homes. If you’d like to learn more about us, visit us at jeld-wen.com. You can also follow us on social media for design tips, product information and much more!

© 2017 JELD-WEN, Inc. This publication and its contents are owned or licensed by JELD-WEN, Inc., its affiliates, licensors, or third parties, and are protected by copyright, trademark, and other laws. Unauthorized use or duplication is prohibited. JELD-WEN reserves the right to change product specifications without notice. Please visit our website, jeld-wen.com, for current information. All rights reserved.