

NSI Windows & Doors, Inc.

CARE & MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR WINDOWS & DOORS

Aluminum and Vinyl

Isn't it amazing how new windows and doors make such a difference in the look of your home? Your windows and doors will continue to perform like new if you follow these simple cleaning and maintenance routines:

HOW TO CLEAN AND CARE FOR YOUR WINDOW FRAMES

Frame Cleaning Do's

- DO clean window and door frames with a mixture of mild dish soap and water.
- DO test cleaners on an inconspicuous area first.
- DO rinse completely with clear water, then wipe dry with a soft cloth.
- DO clean tracks and weep holes.
- DO check weatherstripping and hardware.
- DO clean your insulating glass with proper cleaning agents.

Frame Cleaning Don'ts

- DON'T use a razor blade, putty knife or abrasive pad.
- DON'T use any petroleum-based, abrasive or caustic cleaners or solvents because they might cause permanent damage to the frame finish.
- DON'T use a high-pressure spray nozzle when rinsing your windows after washing.
- DON'T use oil-based lubricants or damage weep hole covers/baffles.
- DON'T live with poor performing components.
- DON'T add attachments to window or glass unless approved by the window manufacturer.

HOW TO CLEAN AND CARE FOR YOUR GLASS

Keeping your windows clean will keep them beautiful. And don't forget; insulating, low-e or heat reflective glass requires proper maintenance to continue working effectively.

Glass Cleaning Do's

- DO clean glass with a mixture of mild dish soap and water.
- DO rinse completely with clear water, then wipe dry with a soft cloth to avoid water spots.
- DO clean screens by first removing, then washing on a flat, clean surface with mild soap and water and a soft brush. Rinse, wipe dry and reinstall.

Glass Cleaning Don'ts

- DON'T wash glass in direct sunlight.
- DON'T use petroleum-based cleaners or caustic chemicals on your glass.
- DON'T use a razor blade, putty knife or abrasive pad to clean the glass.
- DON'T use a high-pressure spray nozzle when rinsing your windows after washing.
- DON'T use abrasive or caustic cleaners because they may cause permanent damage to the finish or the glass



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HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS OPEN, CLOSE, LOCK AND UNLOCK EASILY FOR YEARS TO COME

Don't you love how easily your windows and doors open and close? Keep them operating smoothly by performing these steps:

- Vacuum dirt from sill and track areas regularly, and before each washing.
- Check to make certain that drainage or weep holes are clear of dirt or obstructions. Weep Holes can be found outside the bottom of the frame. Use a small, soft bottlebrush to clear openings.
Note: If the window is "stacked", there may be weep holes between units.
- Moving parts in hardware components and tracks and rollers should be lubricated regularly. In salt-air environments, this can mean at least monthly.
- Check weatherstripping around operable window and door panels to be sure it seals evenly.
- Adjust sliding door rollers for proper height clearances. Most door rollers can be adjusted with a screwdriver through access holes in either the end or side of the sliding panel at the bottom. Be sure to lift the panel to take the weight off of the roller during roller adjustment.
- Rolling screen doors can be adjusted to glide smoothly. Use a screwdriver – often in all four corners to make the adjustment.
- After making roller adjustments, it may be necessary to also make adjustments in the lock strike placement. Most strikes may be adjusted by loosening screw fasteners, moving strike plate and retightening. Check for proper lock operation.

HOW TO MAINTAIN ALUMINUM WINDOWS IN COASTAL AREAS

If the windows are new and have not yet been exposed to a corrosive environment:

- Use a light soap and water solution to wash the windows, and rinse well.
- Apply a light car wax to the extrusion. Do not apply wax without cleaning the windows first. This is especially important in corrosive environments where salt deposits may be sealed to the extrusion by the wax, allowing the salt to continue to do what it is known to do – corrode the extrusion.

If windows are already installed and have been exposed to the elements:

- Use mineral spirits to remove any salt deposits, dirt, etc.
- Use a light soap and water solution to wash windows, and rinse well.
- Apply a light car wax solution to the extrusion annually. Do not apply wax without cleaning the windows first. This is especially important in corrosive environments where salt deposits may be sealed to the extrusion by the wax, allowing the salt to continue to do what it is known to do – corrode the extrusion.

In corrosive environments it is recommended that windows be rinsed regularly to reduce salt deposit build-ups and ease the annual cleaning process.

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HOW TO REDUCE WINDOW CONDENSATION

How does that water get on the inside of windows? And what can you do about it?

Condensation on the inside of a window is the result of a higher air moisture content contacting lower temperatures on the glass. The higher the interior humidity and the lower the outside window temperature, the more condensation can occur.

Excessive interior humidity can lead to structural damage and health concerns if high moisture levels are sustained inside wall cavities. Wood rot, mold and mildew can result.

- Check sashes for smooth adequate operation.
- Use manufacturer-approved exhaust fans, especially when showering.
- Install and use a dehumidifier.
- Use ceiling fans to circulate air.
- Open windows and doors whenever possible to allow interior moisture to escape.

By following these simple steps, you'll add years to the life of your windows and doors. They'll continue to function like new. And they'll keep your home looking beautiful.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Windows and doors often have a simple drainage system or "weep" system designed right into the product. These water drainage pathways must be kept clear and clean for the window or door to operate properly.

- It's normal for water to accumulate in the sill or track area with wind driven rain. The water is intended to drain to the outside as water builds up or outside pressure subsides.
- Keep sill or track areas clean of dirt or debris.
- Make sure that outside and inside "weep" holes and sill area are kept clear of any dirt, stucco, sand or building materials.
- Use a small, soft bottlebrush to clear openings.
- Windows can be vulnerable to water leakage at the corners if not properly maintained. If a Crack appears, it should be sealed with a good grade of sealant according to the instructions.



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VINYL FRAMES MAINTENANCE

It is Easy to Maintain the Beauty of Vinyl-Framed Windows.

Vinyl-framed windows and doors come closer to being maintenance-free than most exterior building products.

They may become dirty just as a freshly painted house, a new automobile, or any other product which is exposed to atmospheric conditions.

With very little effort, you can keep your vinyl window and door frames clean. In most cases a heavy rain is sufficient to clean these products.

Avoid washing windows with a high pressure spray. If rain does not do a satisfactory job, follow these simple instructions.

These instructions are based on a study conducted by the Vinyl Window and Door Institute on the efficiency of cleaning agents and their effects on the appearance of vinyl-framed windows after two years of outdoor exposure.

Normal Maintenance

- Wash using a soft cloth or ordinary long-handled soft bristle brush.
- For difficult to remove dirt and stains such as top soil, motor oil, lithium grease, crayon, felt-tip pen, caulk, lipstick, grass, bubble gum, mold and mildew, use the readily available household cleaners listed here. Follow manufacturer's instructions on use of cleaners.
- In some cases you may wish to use a mildly abrasive cleaner, such as Soft Scrub®, Ajax®, Bon Ami®, etc., but the use of any abrasive material could have a negative effect on the surface of glass and window or door frames.
- Do not use cleansers containing aggressive organic solvents because they could affect the surface appearance of the vinyl frame. Examples of such cleaners are: chlorine bleach, liquid grease remover, strong soaps and detergents containing organic solvents, nail polish remover and furniture polish/cleaners.

CLEANERS TO REMOVE STAINS FROM VINYL-FRAMED WINDOWS AND DOORS

Stain Type	Best Cleaners for Vinyl Frames	Alternative Cleaners for Vinyl Frames	Cleaners for Non-vinyl Frames
Top Soil	Fantastik	Murphy's Oil Lestoil (b) Shout	Soft Scrub (a)
Motor Oil	Fantastik	Lysol Murphy's Oil Windex Endust Shout	Lysol Soft Scrub (a)
Lithium Grease	Shout Windex	Fantastik Murphy's Oil	Fantastik
Black Tar	Endust	Soft Scrub (a)	
Crayon	Endust Lestoil	Formula 409® Soft Scrub (a)	Formula 409
Pencil	Ajax® Pledge® Endust	Soft Scrub (a) (for colors)	Soft Scrub (a)
Flare Pen	Fantastik	Water based Cleaners	Fantastik
Nail Polish	Brillo Pad (a)	Nail Polish Remover (for colors)	Brillo Pad (a)
Paint	Ajax	Brillo Pad (a)	Brillo Pad (b)
Oil Stain	Brillo Pad (a)	Ajax Soft Scrub (a)	
Grass Stain	Windex	Murphy's Oil Endust	Windex Tide Powder
Rust	Fantastik		Tide Powder
Mold & Mildew	Ajax Fantastik Windex	Pledge/Endust Soft Scrub (a) 30% Vinegar & 70% H ₂ O solution	Ajax Windex Soft Scrub (a) Ivory Liquid dish detergent 30% Vinegar & 70% H ₂ O Solution
Lipstick	Murphy's Oil	Soft Scrub (a)	Murphy's Oil

(a) Moderate surface abrasion / (b) full strength