

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

Your aluminum and vinyl window frames can continue to look like new, even years from now, with regular care and maintenance.

### 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.

## 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 window or door in 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 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.