



Traditional Doors & Windows

Guide to maintenance



THE SASH
WINDOW
WORKSHOP

Paint & preparation

Which way is South West?

Check your elevations, work out which windows face South and West. They will need more attention than East and North facing windows as generally they will be more exposed to the weather.

No need to paint everything at once

Often, all the windows will not need painting at the same time. The most exposed windows may need painting every 2–3 years, sheltered windows can often last 5–8 years. If you can't fully repaint before winter comes, get some paint on exposed areas.

Preparation for painting

Make sure that dirt is cleaned off and the windows are 'rubbed down'. Avoid stripping paint back to bare wood. It seldom helps redecoration and can cause more problems than it solves.

Beware false economies

Use the best paint your budget will allow. Ideally apply two coats: undercoat and top coat. The best finish follows on from proper preparation.

Sort out any rot properly

Windows and doors tend to rot at the bottoms of the frames and the side stiles. Poke around with a screwdriver to find rot. If you find rot make sure that it is properly dealt with. Get back to good timber, fix the timber using a hardening compound, then fill it using a quality filler. The best solution is to have a joinery professional make a splice repair, using hardwood or Accoya to reduce the amount of shrink back.



This guide is designed to help owners of traditional timber windows maintain them, lengthen their life span and avoid the expense of replacements where possible.

Other tips

Work your windows. Try to keep all your windows functioning properly, windows and doors that are painted shut deteriorate quicker.

Windows stuck shut?

Scrape off any paint build up which may be preventing movement and spray Silicone spray into the moving parts. Silicone is the modern beeswax.

If the timber has expanded to the extent that the windows will not open or close without forcing, find a carpenter.

Glass or cords broken?

Cracked glass, broken sash cords or defective ironmongery is rarely cause for concern and can usually be repaired inexpensively. It is the structural integrity of the joinery that is the most important element.

If you have broken or defective beading, architraves or liners, it is often less expensive to replace it than to repair. Parts can be found in builders merchants and most DIY stores.

If you need new ironmongery for your windows and you don't know where to look, try www.nuline.co.uk or www.sds.co.uk. These companies provide a wide range of window and door ironmongery.



'A stitch in time saves nine', if something needs doing get on and do it, paint does not improve with age and rot positively thrives if left untended.

Points to remember

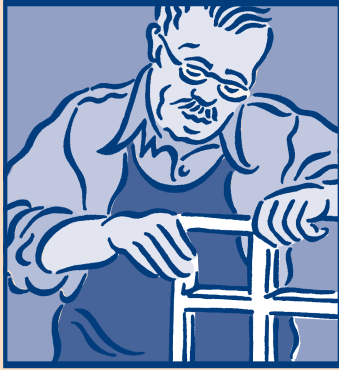
Windows should only be opened using the window furniture provided and not the glazing bars or rails as this weakens the sash joints.

Traditional windows need good, regular maintenance. Adhering to this will save you money in the long term by helping to avoid the need for replacement for many years.

The Sash Window Workshop offers a full replacement, overhaul, and repair and re-glazing service, should there be more serious problems with your windows.



Carrying out regular checks and maintenance is the key to low costs over the long term.



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