

Caring for your Wood Windows and Doors

All wood products can last forever if they are maintained properly. Windows and doors need periodic care in order to ensure a long durability and proper function. Naturally your windows and doors are subject to mixture of weather conditions and because of the various types of architectural and installation solutions, there is no rule which specifies how often these maintenance activities should be made. We can only say that wood windows and doors exposed to the South need a particular attention because sun is the worst enemy of the wood. A good habit would be to inspect, clean and adjust as necessary every six months. It is very important to understand that preventive treatments are essential to avoid severe damage in the future.

Cleaning:

The buildup of dirt and soot and other harmful contaminants on the exterior of any window or door is very common and extremely damaging if not cleaned periodically. This dirt and soot is typically acidic and will deteriorate any finish overtime. You'll find that dirt and soot usually builds up on surfaces that are not flat (muntins, panels, trim pieces, carvings)

Cleaning the Wood

To preserve a healthy finish, periodically wipe down the exterior of your window or door with a damp dust free soft cloth. If you find that the soot and dirt buildup is excessive, use a very-light-soapy warm water solution with a dust free soft cloth. Repeat process with a clean damp cloth (just water solution) if any surface soapy residue remains. Once the wood is dry and free of heavy dust and soot -Formby's® Almond Lustre® can also be used to clean and protect the wood finish (Do not use any cleaning products that contain petroleum, waxes or vegetable oil soaps. The best cleaners have a neutral pH and have no wax build-up. Always read the Manufactures product label before use)

Cleaning the Glass

You can usually remove dust, dirt, smoke, film, soot and salt spray by using a mild detergent and water solution and a soft cloth. To remove heavy dirt or grime from glass, first wipe loose debris from the glass surface with a soft, dry cloth. Then apply a cleaning solution, such as mild soapy water, vinegar or a window cleaner, and wipe in a circular motion. Remove cleaning solution with a squeegee or a clean, lint-free cloth. Never clean glass in direct sunlight. To avoid damage to the glass, never use razor blades or anything abrasive on glass surface.

Cleaning Insect Screens

You can usually remove dust, dirt, smoke, film, soot and salt spray from grilles using a mild detergent and water solution and a soft cloth or brush. To remove grease, oil or industrial solids, you may need to use stronger solutions cleaning solutions or rubbing alcohol. Insect screens are best cleaned with a garden hose and soapy water. If they have been neglected, wash them with a detergent and water, using a soft-fiber brush.