

# Why are My Windows and Doors Hard to Open and Close?



If you are struggling to open or close a stuck window in your house, you may be able to resolve the problem with a few simple steps. Or, if you're unable to correct the issue with one of the basic methods suggested below, you may have a larger issue that requires professional treatment. But before you decide it's time to call for warranty service, try one of the approaches explained here for common window types.

## How to Open a Stuck Window

Before you resort to installing replacement window units, try troubleshooting to identify a possibly minor window maintenance issue. Take the following actions for the window type indicated below to correct small problems:

### Casement Windows

Consult the manufacturer's instructions to remove and check the sash on a casement window for loose *screws* and tighten them. Replace any stripped screws. Try lubricating the *hinges* with a silicone lubricant if needed.

### Double and Single Hung Windows

*Dirt and dust* may cause increasing friction when opening and closing the window. Clean the single or double-hung window frames and apply a little spray lubricant as needed. Or, if the *spring* in the window jamb is too tight, adjust the spring.

## Sliding Windows

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Remove the sash from the sliding window to access the *track*. Use soap and water to clean the track. Lubricate the track and *rollers* if needed. Replace defective or worn rollers.

## Other Reasons Windows are Hard to Open and Close

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If the methods recommended above for correcting difficulties opening or closing windows do not work, there may be a different kind of problem. Here are some other common causes of trouble opening and closing windows:

- **Warped Wood:** If the sealant around your window frame deteriorates, the waterproof seal can fail. As the window frame absorbs moisture, it may swell, making it difficult to open or close, or lock.
- **Interference:** If the window installation was not well executed, there might be alignment issues that impact the smooth movement of the window. You may need professional service to correct the problem.
- **Frame Damage:** If the window becomes damaged, then the best approach may be a window replacement. Have a certified professional window installer handle the problem for the best long-term results.
- **Foundation Settling:** Inspect to determine whether your home has begun to settle. This can cause pressure on window frames, leading them to become misaligned and harder to open or close.

## Problems with Hard to Open Windows

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Low-quality wood or metal frames are more likely to develop problems that can make windows harder to open and close. For example:

- Worn window frames may leak air and cause damage and mold.
- Warped wood frames can be due to worn paint and excessive moisture.
- Extreme heat loss can occur from using single-pane glass.
- Rotting wood or peeling paint makes wood windows stick open or closed.
- Poor energy efficiency is caused by failing window seals.
- Rusting frames make windows harder to open and close.

## If Your Windows Don't Work, Call Advanced Window Products

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Poorly functioning windows can seriously impact home energy efficiency and comfort. Trying to remedy the problem yourself may not be effective long-term. After you try the methods suggested above for a window that is not opening or closing properly, it may be time to have it professionally examined and repaired as needed.

**Call Advanced Window Products at (801) 505-9622 or contact us here online for guidance on window maintenance or help with window warranty issues.**

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