

simply

Installing a Window



Replacing window frames is a relatively simple task, involving little more than extracting one frame and inserting another of identical size.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Drill
Masonry and Wood Bits
Tape Measure
Spirit Level
Hammer
Saw (Wood & Steel)
Crowbar

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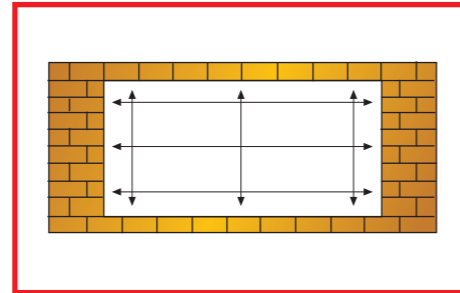
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BEFORE YOU START

To calculate the frame size needed, you must carefully measure the existing brickwork opening size from the outside. Do not measure the existing window frame, which will be less than the brick opening. If the wall around the existing window is plastered over the frame, some of the plastering must be chopped back to bare brick so that accurate measurements can be taken. Measure in at least three places on both the height and width.

If there is any variation in height or width, note the shortest measurement in each direction.



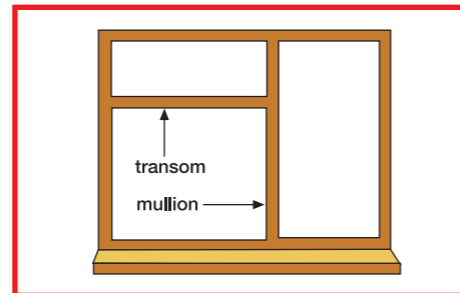
REMOVING THE OLD WINDOW

This should not be done until your new frame is on the premises and you have checked the size and condition. You do not want an opening left for an intruder to gain access to your house.

Start the frame removal by unscrewing and completely detaching any opening sashes at the hinges.

Rake out the putty holding the glass in fixed sashes and extract the small metal glazing nails, which will be found at intervals round the frame, up against the glass. You will have to use an old chisel or a similar tool to chop out the old hard putty. Take care not to break the glass.

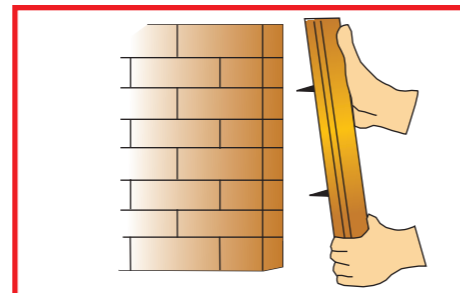
Remove the glass completely and put carefully aside. With all the glass and opening sashes removed you should be left with just an old frame still attached to the brickwork, probably with nails, so it needs to be literally cut out of position. Start cutting through the transoms or mullions, removing them completely.



Follow this by cutting through the side jambs at an angle about one third of the way up from the sill. Take care not to damage internal plastering with the saw blade. Insert a crowbar or similar tool behind the cut jambs and lever away from the wall.

NB. Place a flat piece of wood between the brick/plaster and the crowbar. This will reduce any damage to the hard surface when pressure is applied.

Once you can get sufficient grip on the jambs, use your hands to completely pull out the old timber. Where the jambs are mortised into the head and sill, the tenons should break away easily.



Remove the head and sill in similar fashion cutting through them, then levering away. It is likely that the old frame head will still have projecting ends - horns embedded into the brickwork at each side. Once the cut head sections have been levered off the nails, these horns should pull easily out of the wall. The resulting holes should be filled with mortar mix since they cannot be used again. Once all the timber has been removed, check the opening, removing old nails and traces of old mortar used to in-fill the gap between the frame and the brickwork to leave a clean clear opening.

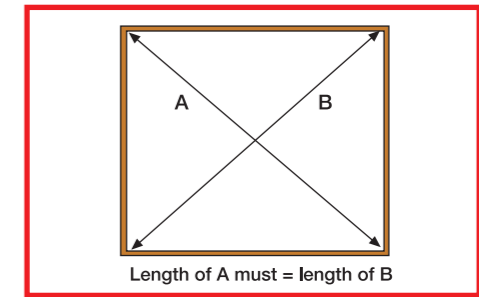
INSTALLING YOUR TIMBER WINDOW

Standard sized windows bought off the shelf are not supplied with glass. Glass to the correct size can easily be purchased from any local glass merchant.

With the brickwork opening prepared and the window deglazed, the frame can be lifted directly into position from the outside. **There should be a gap of about 3mm from side to side and top to bottom between the brick opening and the frame.** These gaps will allow the frame to be aligned correctly and set squarely. Set the frame into the opening so that the drip groove on the underside of the sill is well clear of the outside wall. Get the sill level first, using durable wedges to push the frame head up against the lintel above. Check that it is level, using a spirit level, adjusting the wedges as necessary.

Now align the jambs - the vertical frame sides. They must be perfectly vertical. Again use the spirit level on both the outside faces and the glazing faces to check that they are vertical. Use wedges to hold the frame in the correct position. Check the squareness by measuring the frame diagonals. They must measure exactly the same.

Adjust the thickness of the wedges if necessary to ensure accurate square positioning. As a final check un-latch the opening sashes to make sure they do open freely. Secure the frame to the brickwork using the frame fixers. Drill and countersunk clearance holes in the frame and through into the brickwork 150mm from each corner and at maximum 600mm intervals in between all round.



Keep clearance holes in the centre of the glazing rebate where they will, in due course, be covered in glass. Knock in the fixers and drive home the fixing screws taking care not to distort the frame.

GLAZING WINDOWS

Refer to "Simply Glazing Windows" Leaflet No. 12 for details on how to glaze your window.

Once the frames are fitted and glazed, you should "make good" around the frame perimeter on the outside using a quality silicone to ensure that all openings through which water could soak, are sealed.

Also ensure that window is treated with a quality sealer to truly waterproof your window to ensure that no warping etc. occurs.

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**SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER
QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BUILD IT STORE.**

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