Weatherizing Techniques for Old Wood Windows

OnBalance Solutions
Ithaca, New York
The Window
Before weatherizing, look for problems.

*Take time to assess working conditions of windows.*

- Are the windows drafty?
- Do the sashes neatly glide up and down?
Are your windows drafty?

Weather-stripping the sashes:

- When upgrading historic or vintage windows choose spring bronze or EP DM rubber.
- Use copper brads.
- Measure the bronze 1 inch longer than the sash measurements.
- Ensure bronze is 1/16 inch away from parting bead.
- Brads are spaced 1½ inch apart.
Are your windows drafty?

**Weather-stripping the sashes:**

- Once installed, bend bronze back to help form seal.
- Use hook-style metal weather-stripping on the meeting rails.
Spring Bronze and Sash Stop Adjuster
Do the sashes glide up and down?

The sash stop serves two functions:

1. To hold the sash in place.
2. Adjusts to secure against wind infiltration.
The Sash Stop Adjusters:
Do the sashes glide up and down?

*Adjust the sash stops.*

- Use screws and a stop adjuster.
- When installed correctly, they allow stops to be loosened for "throwing up the sash" in warm weather, and tightened to seal out drafts in cold weather.
- Additionally, a simple fix is to install cam locks, sometimes called banjo fasteners.
Installing Storm Windows

Energy studies conducted by federal and state governments indicate the combination and use of a weatherized and adjusted sash and good storm sash is as efficient as most replacements windows.


The Storm Window Latch:
Installing Storm Windows

- The best storms thermally and aesthetically are wood.
- Reproduction wood storms are best when made with mahogany, western cedar, or Spanish cedar.
- Interior storms can be used on the inside of the sash.
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