MyHomeWorks

Windows

Equipment Description

There are many different styles and types of windows depending on the location, use, and architectural preference. Most styles can be opened, and many are offered in energy efficient double pane and low energy transfer designs.

Loss Scenario

Moisture and potential mold between the window frame and the wall, or water penetration around the window frame, are common problems. If this happens, the window should be removed to repair any damage and protect the wall from further damage. The window should then be replaced and resealed to ensure it is watertight. This may require a qualified and skilled professional to make the repairs.

Other issues, such as water leakage through the window itself, rotten or broken window components and jammed sashes, are also common problems. Some of these issues may require use of skilled professionals to make the repairs.

Energy Impact and Carbon Footprint

Exposure provided from windows directly impact the energy used to heat and cool a house. Installation of energy efficient windows, or repairing and weather-sealing old windows, can reduce home energy requirements. The benefits of efficient windows include energy and cost savings, improved comfort, less condensation, increased light and view, reduced fading of surfaces in the home, and lower heating and cooling costs. Using windows that are Energy Star-qualified can ensure improved energy performance and reduced carbon emissions.

Maintenance Tips

- Clean and restore wood window framing using appropriate materials. Consult a qualified professional to determine what materials are appropriate for your area, or hire a qualified professional to choose materials and perform the work.
- Keeping window frames properly painted protects and preserves your windows.
- Vinyl, aluminum or fiberglass window frames do not rot like wood, but still need regular cleaning and appropriate painting to remain intact.
- Weather stripping installed around window openings comes in various materials, such as vinyl, metal, felt, and open cell foam. Replace weather stripping when it is dirty, worn, or allows excessive air passage.
- Window maintenance is inexpensive and not only protects the home but also helps its appearance.

Loss Prevention Tips

- Sealing the smallest openings around windows with caulk or other sealant is essential for stopping water infiltration.
- Consider buying window insulation kits which can increase the R-value of your windows significantly, decreasing energy consumption.
- Minimize window heat loss by purchasing the best windows possible.
- There are attractive roll-up thermal shades that are made of comforter or winter jacket-like material. These shades are usually best mounted on tracks to seal the window on cold nights or hot days.
- If a home has older single-pane windows, consider replacing them or installing storm windows to reduce energy loss and exposure to environmental elements such as water, snow and ice.