

HERE IS THE WINLOCK GUIDE TO KEEPING YOUR WINDOWS IN TOP CONDITION:

At least twice a year open the window fully and clean out any debris, cobwebs or insects from the sash and frame particularly around any hardware parts.

PVC frames can generally be cleaned with warm mildly soapy water and a non-abrasive cloth.

LUBRICATION OF HARDWARE

The hinge mechanisms and locking mechanisms would benefit from lubrication at least once and preferably twice a year. Lubricate with a silicon spray around all parts with metal to metal contact. This means the moving locking parts of the window lock and all the riveted parts of the door hinge.

ADJUSTMENT OF HARDWARE

If the window operates easily and without undue resistance then lubrication is enough, but if the locking mechanism is becoming stiff then in most cases it is possible to adjust the locking cams on the window lock.

Most will have an Allen Key adjustment in the centre of the locking point. They should be preset to a neutral position when the window is made but this may not be the case once installed. The easiest way to adjust a stiff window is to adjust each locking point so that the locking point is moved as far towards the opening side as possible. This should give the minimum amount of compression and make the window as easy to lock as possible. If it is too loose then turn the locking points back towards the closing side. If the locking system is still too stiff having fully adjusted the locking points out then there is something else wrong with the mechanism and you should call the original installer if still under warranty or a window maintenance specialist.

REPLACEMENT OF HARDWARE

The only component on a window that is easily replaced by a DIYer is the espagnolette handle. Buy an Easyfit Repair Espag pack or Versa Repair Handle and these should come with everything needed to replace the handles including screws and instructions.

It is not recommended that window hinges or locking systems are replaced by anyone other than a tradesman – even replacing like for like might be a mistake if the hardware is wrong for the window in the first place. It is all too easy to ruin a perfectly serviceable window if not properly skilled.

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