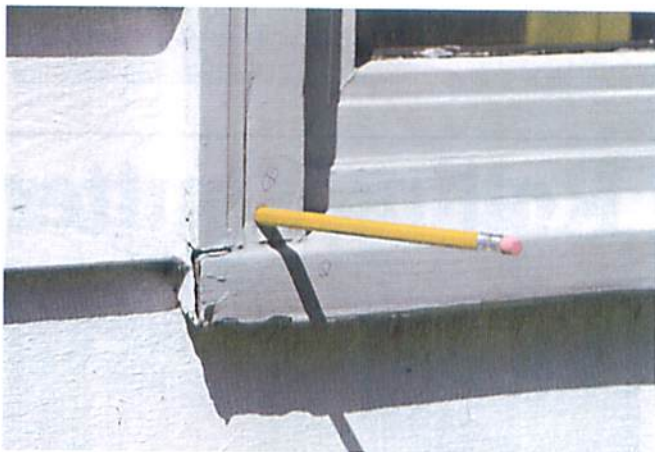




# Protect Your Wood Window Investment



Have you ever felt like you are fighting a losing battle with your wood windows? You could be. but it's never too late to catch up. There is no good reason to pay tens of thousands of dollars to replace your wood windows when there are other options. Replacement should be the last resort.

Wood windows are a beautiful asset to your home. They have the reputation for quality and luxury for the Pacific Northwest homeowner. However, our warm summers and mild, wet winters make wood windows susceptible to the affects of mold, mildew and dry rot. Since the early 1980's, the use of pine wood has meant that without regular maintenance, wood windows are struggling to meet your expectations. As an exterior wood, pine is softer than the fir that was used in manufacturing wood windows of decades past. Manufacturers are now providing metal clad or fiberglass exterior to their windows to help with maintenance, but there are those discerning, select homeowners that want true wood windows.

You can also enjoy today's wood windows if you know how to care for them and recognize where problems arise. For instance, a dwelling will generally have 80% of its wood window's problems, dry rot and seal failures (moisture between the panes) on the southern and western exposures. On those exposures, problems will generally be more prevalent on the lower levels of multi-story dwellings and on those walls that have no eaves or overhangs.

Dry rot is a fungus that can grow and spread in moist lumber. Once it dries, it becomes crumbly, porous and prone to destructive attack from carpenter ants, increasing the damage to your windows, and your home. Some of the tell tale signs of potential damage are soft, spongy or shrunken wood on the exterior; cracked or peeling paint on the interior; moisture between the panes (seal failure); interior water damage or visible water; and visible mushrooms growing (rotten wood).

Take a few moments to perform your own visual examination. Go a step further and use a steak knife to poke around toward the bottom of the windows. Keep your penetration mark as small as possible and touch them up with sealant or paint as needed. If the knife penetrates deeper than the tip with moderate pressure, you probably have some issues that could use further examination.

Chosen Wood Window Maintenance works exclusively on wood windows and doors produced by the major manufacturers of quality products. For more information and to schedule a free evaluation of troubled windows, you can call them at (503) 266-3830. CCB# 132834, CHOSEWW008KJ ■