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How To Replace a Worn or Broken Sash Cord

This is perhaps the most difficult task the home repairperson will ever face. But don't take this as a reason to be discouraged! Follow the procedure closely, rely heavily on the detailed sketches, and you'll do just fine!

Utensils

Claw hammer
Old wood chisel
Pliers
Medium flat blade screwdriver
10-foot length of twine or fishing cord
1/2 -ounce fishing weight
Diagonal cutters
Wooden stick, 2 feet long

Ingredients

Length of sash chain or cord
2 feet longer than height of window
Sash chain hooks
Sash chain spine coils
Can of silicone spray lubricant or paraffin wax

Approximate Time:

Bottom Sash - 60 Minutes; Top Sash - 90 Minutes

1. Remove window stop bead from side of window frame that has the broken sash cord (Fig. 21 A). If there are two broken cords, it will be necessary to remove stops from both sides. Pry gently with claw hammer. Do not break.
2. Raise bottom sash and remove weather stripping (metal strips grooved into edge of sash frame), if any, by prying up with chisel. Do not damage weather stripping.
3. Remove protruding nails by pulling them through with claw hammer or pliers.
4. Now remove sash from frame.
5. On each side of frame, there are wood panels called pockets (Fig. 21B). Remove screws holding each in place and remove panel, revealing sash weight.
6. If the sash cord on the upper sash is also broken, this step and steps 7 and 8 are necessary. All succeeding steps apply to all. If that upper sash cord is broken, it is necessary to remove the upper sash by gently dislodging parting strip as shown in Figure 21C. Lower window and remove weather stripping, if any, as in step 2.

7. Raise window and prop with stick.
8. At bottom of upper sash track, next to parting strip, there is a pocket that must be removed.
9. Tie twine to fishing weight, and push over top of pulley, as shown in Figure 21B. D 10. Carefully lower weight until it is visible in pocket below.
11. Tie the end of twine to one end of cord or chain. See Figure 22B.
12. Now pull fish weight until chain or cord is visible in pocket.
13. Slip end of chain or cord through hole in weight and attach a hook, as shown in Figure 21D, to secure chain to weight, or, if using sash cord, tie a knot as shown in Figure 21B.
14. Now pull chain so that weight is pulled up inside frame until it stops.
15. Place window on sill, as shown in Figure 21 A, and cut chain with diagonal cutters 2 inches beyond hole in side of sash. If using cord, cut 3 inches beyond hole.
16. Take sash chain spring coil and attach as shown in Figure 21E. Tie a knot to attach, if using cord.
17. Push coil into hole inside of sash, and repeat on other sashes as necessary.
18. Place sash into position and ride window up and down to insure that cord and/or chain is of proper length.
19. Replace pockets.
20. Replace weather stripping and all moldings.
21. Spray tracks with silicone spray or rub with paraffin. This will guarantee a smooth operation.

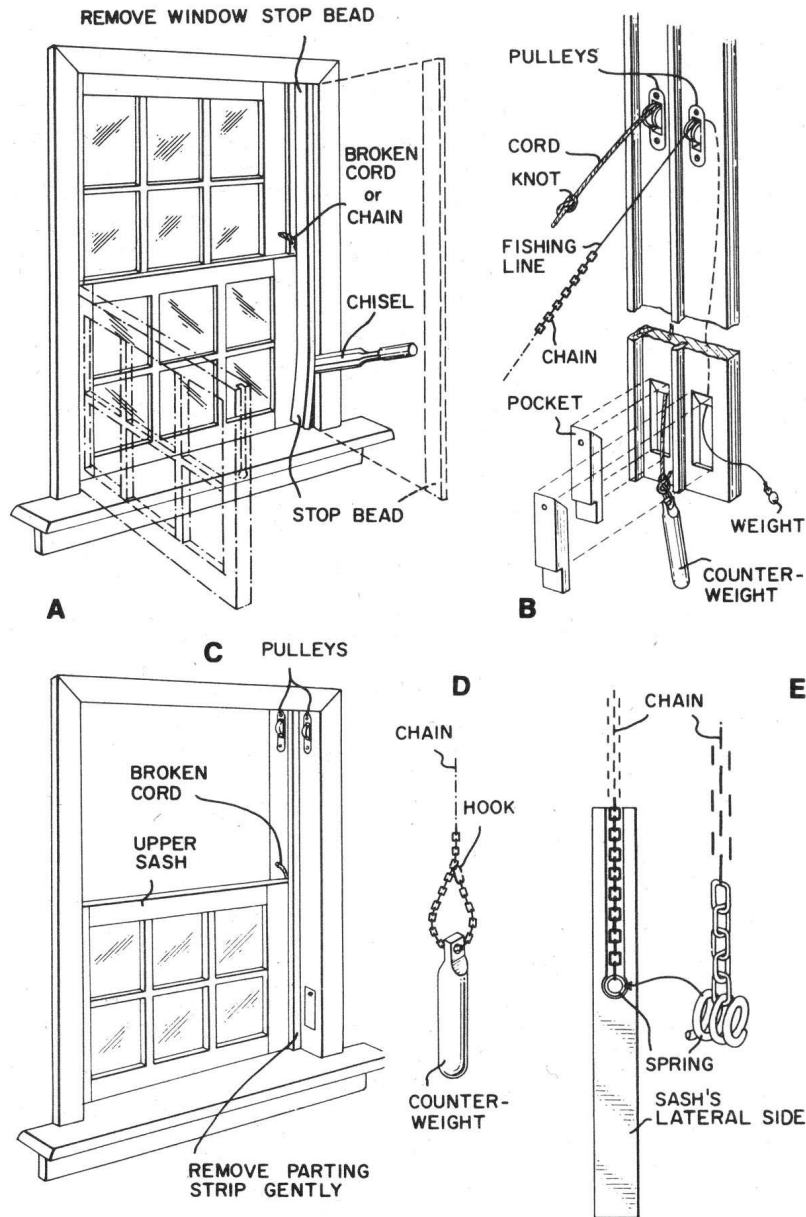


Figure 21.
Sash Cord Magic