



Permissions For Reprints Contact: 1-800-640-8285

How To Repair Sticking Windows

There are house painters and there are "Shmearers." House painters are people who take their time, select the proper paint, prepare the area well, and do their work efficiently and neatly. The "shmearer," on the other hand, stalks into the place, pries open a few cans of paint, and slops it onto walls, windows, floors, stoves, refrigerators, silverware, and furniture. It is this "shmearer" who is responsible for windows that won't open because of caked paint. Here's how to undo his handiwork.

Utensils

Claw hammer or mallet
Pliers
2" inch flat chisel
3" inch putty knife
Hatchet
6" inch piece of 2 by 4

Ingredients

Paraffin wax or wax candles or silicone spray or soap

Approximate Time: 15 To 60 Minute

1. First check to see if stuck windows have been nailed shut.
2. If this is the case, remove nails with hammer or pliers.
3. If not, you must now check for caked paint between sash and frame.
4. If that's the problem, place chisel between sash and frame and gently chip away accumulated paint.
5. If you have easy access to outside frame, check there for caked paint and chip away as in step 4.
6. Now - from the outside - try to pry at bottom of sash with chisel and hammer. Don't overdo.
7. Place hatchet under sash and hammer with mallet into joint as shown in Figure 22B.
8. Repeat prying.
9. Repeat tapping, placing 2 by 4 block on frame and gently striking with hammer. The block will prevent damage to window.
10. You should now be able to open window.
11. Once window is open, rub tracks with wax, silicone, or soap.

12. Repeat process with upper sash and other windows as necessary.
13. If it is impossible to work outside, lay putty knife between sash and stop and tap gently into frame (Fig. 22A).
14. Continue all around sash, and repeat steps 9 and 10. You may now try to open window carefully. D 15. Repeat steps 11 and 12.

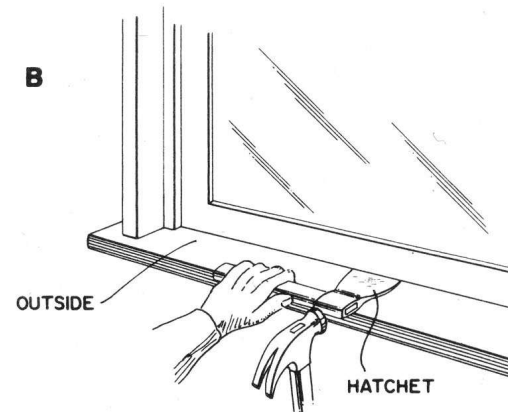
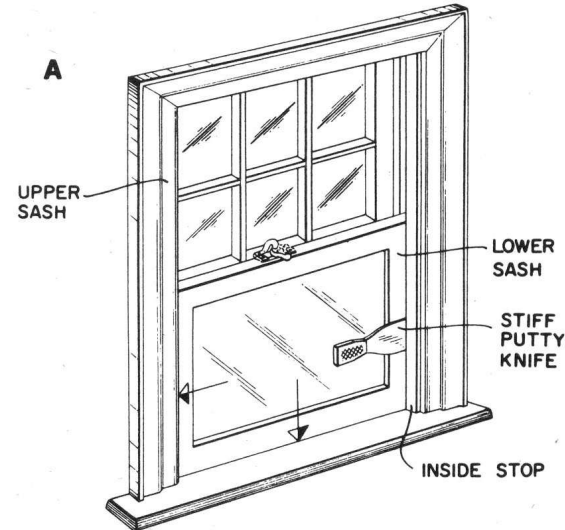


Figure 22.
To Open a Stick Window