

## WINDOW REPLACEMENT

I have had many questions about window replacement/install.

The main answer I always give is to contact a reputable window supplier. A home owned (mom and pop) lumber yard is nearly always the best.



Now, be very careful and remove the old window casing on the interior. Take a 6" putty knife and slip it behind the casing and then another on top of the first one and the chisel in between them as I have done. This will protect the wall and the casing from getting damaged.

Always have a temporary frame with plywood available to close the opening until the windows arrive (usually 3-6 weeks). It is best to order the windows by the RO and leave them in the opening.

There are some windows you are going to have to cut the jambs out with a recip saw. Saw the jamb legs in half and remove them and then the header and the sill last. **Be Careful and do not use a circular saw for this procedure.**

When you have the casing removed you can measure the RO (rough opening). The RO is width-height=length (depth). This callout is for doors, windows, lumber, sheet-stock and many other things in construction. Do not mix them up, its NHL only. A typical window RO framed callout 48x36. The window to be installed in this opening is a 4-0x3-0, this is the callout of the unit. Actual w-h of the unit is 47½"x36½".

I have been on jobs where we were installing windows and they put the window in the opening and then everyone let go to grab their hammer and the window fell out (or in)!



This is an 8p finish "spring" nail that is drove halfway into the frame jamb and bent over towards the inside at about 45°. I install 4 of these, two about 4" down from the header and two up from the frame sill on both sides of the jamb.

On a 8-0x5-0 I will put two at top and 2 or 3 on the frame sill. When you push a window (with a nailing flange on it) into this opening the springnails will grab the window frame and not let fall back out. If the window does not have a nailing flange you need to nail a stop block (1X2) across the corners on the inside to keep it from falling in. I do this same procedure on door units when I am hanging by myself.

The springnails will also center the window in the opening, if you have them all bent at the same angle your frame is plumb/level/square and have the nails all drove into the frame jamb halfway.

The next thing is to never shim a window or door in the jamb legs (the jamb part from the top to the bottom of the window or door) or the span of the header and sill of the window. Shim at the ends of the header (top rail of the window) and the ends of the sill rail (bottom horizontal member of the window). If you install shims in the header area you are going to have major problems with settling later on. The casing is what keeps the jamb legs, header and sill aligned. Too much insulation packed into these areas will also give problems. You can shim the latch area/middle hinge of a door after you have it fully adjusted. Lightly stuff, with a putty knife, a little bat insulation into the gaps to stop the airflow into the interior.

Many times I have gone to a window dealer and they say that a window unit would cost say \$200 for a 4-0x3-0. Then I would ask what they would charge for a jamb that was ¾" deeper (Length). It would be a \$100 more. This can be remedied by simply adding a jamb extension with a small 1/8" reveal.

You simply nail or staple ¾x¾ to the 4 ¾" jamb, or whatever size you have and it brings the jamb out to the plane of your interior wall, so you can case it.

Be very careful when you install a window, especially a slider, to not install it upside down, or inside out.

The large tags from the window manufacturer should be to where that you can read them from the **outside** of the house.

I have only seen but maybe 2 or 3 windows in my whole career that these tags were wrong, but I have seen hundreds of sliders installed upside down and/or backwards.

Like I said before, find a good window retailer, they can save you a lot of headaches. Read the instructions with the window. I have seen a few that gave the correct way to install a window.

<http://carpenterbooks.com>

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