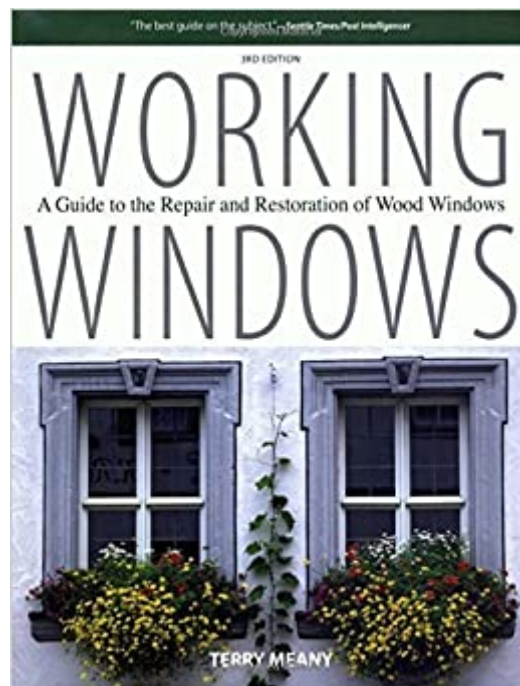




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# Working Windows: A Guide To The Repair And Restoration Of Wood Windows



## Synopsis

Older homes are gaining in value, especially when the original craftsman details are well maintained, such as antique lead panes and wood windows. And refinishing beautiful old windows happens to be one do-it-yourself project that a home owner can actually accomplish without professional assistance. This is the only completely illustrated guide to repairing and refinishing every part of an old window, from weather stripping, pulleys, sashes, hopper vents, and casings to old hinges, paint, and glass. Completely updated with a new section on cleaning windows.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The best guide on the subject." --Seattle Times/Post Intelligencer "Meany has put together the definitive book on wood window repair and restoration. . . [it is] written with excellent detail, helpful diagrams, simple and clear instructions, and a good bit of Meany's wry humor to make it a lively read. It is an absolutely indispensable part of any wood-window-owning do-it-yourselfer's home library." -- .com "Whether you simply need to eliminate drafts or want to tackle complex stripping, author Meany is sure to steer you in the right direction. Remember, the windows really are the eyes of your home." --Timber Homes Illustrated "Assuming you have a reason to repair old, single-pane windows instead of replacing them with insulated glass windows, Terence Meany's *Working Windows*. . . could come in handy. Meany, who calls himself Mr. Window, has some neat tricks up his sleeve. . . ." --Journal of Light Construction "Working Windows leaves the subject of window

design and installation to other authors, and instead concentrates on something more basic to homeowners: getting the windows you already have to work properly for what they were designed and installed to do."--Woodshop News "A healthy dose of humor and lots of detail as it tells the basics of how to restore, repair or replace virtually any kind of window."--Booklist "The next best thing to taking a class from Terry." --Larry Kreisman, Program Director for Historic Seattle, a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1974 and dedicated to preserving Seattle and King County's architectural legacy.

In *Working Windows*, 3rd Edition, Terry Meany (aka Mr. Window) explains with detail, humor, and accessibility everything you'll need to know to repair, replace, or restore almost any window regardless of its age. Inside you will find: detailed instruction for disassembling and repairing various types of wood windows repair hints and tricks of the trade you won't find anywhere else easy ways to clean and restore original hardware safe and efficient methods of stripping, refinishing, and painting effective ways to eliminate drafts and rattles methods for glass cleaning invaluable information on tools and materials and more. *Working Windows*, 3rd Edition is the only fully illustrated guide to repairing and refinishing every part of an old window, from weather stripping, pulleys, sashes, hopper vents, and casings to old hinges, paint, and glass. Whether you are a craftsman or a do-it-yourself homeowner, you will find *Working Windows*, 3rd Edition packed with essential advice and instruction to get your windows looking great and operating smoothly.

The author's voice comes across loud and clear, but it's obvious he's fixed a lot of these old windows and there's tons of useful information about all the repair procedures available. Some of the procedures are a bit too chewing-gum-and-bailing-wire for my taste, but the author is the first to point out that there are better options as well. I found this book very helpful when determining how much repair my windows required. Note that I'd highly recommend not drilling holes in the frame to access sash weights as recommended in this book - it's very hard to get a good looking repair. My outside casing came off easily and gave access to the weights without damaging the appearance or function of the window.

Window installers come at the public with a good line of hype. Many times it is flagrantly untrue. I think, almost every time, it is worth restoring the original windows rather than replacing them with new vinyl ones. Seasonal movement is one of the major problems for windows. Vinyl's seasonal

movement is four times that of pine or fir according to the government testing lab that tests building material. Vinyl does not rot or is not destroyed by termites; it deteriorates. They are not made to be repaired, they are throw away. Also, the design of the vinyl window is out of place with the period of the home, making them grossly stand out as inappropriate to the style of the house. If you are concerned about the R rating, your old restored window, with a storm window attached is rated much higher than a new vinyl window. There are some homes, being lived in now, with two to three hundred year old windows still functioning fine. These are the reasons to buy this book. Window restoration and repair are good DIY projects. This book will take you through it.

If you've ever lived in a pre-1950's house you've had to deal with old style windows. Sure, they look nice with their wide wooden trim and lead dividers. But opening them in the summer to bring in some fresh air. Good luck with that. Whether they are stuck shut with too much paint, suffering from a bad case of rot in the stiles or hard to open because the pulley ropes are missing, it's likely that your old windows need help. Faced with these "broken" windows, many home owners seek to replace the windows with new drop-in vinyl windows. We didn't want to do that. For one, it's expensive to replace all the windows in the house. Two, we bought the house because it is a charming old farmhouse. But I know nothing about old windows. Hence, the purchase of this book. Terry writes with humor and wit. I can't tell you how many times I chuckled while reading this book. How often does that happen in a household repair book? The book starts by defining the construction of old windows, and naming the parts. Later, it gives detailed guidance on removal of windows, repair strategies, where to buy replacement parts and more.

Wonderful book! Easy read and loads of information. I finally have enough information and the confidence to tackle fixing and possibly completely restoring our 123 year-old windows. This one was well worth every dime! To chuckle while learning some serious stuff really took me over the edge. A must have!

If you have old windows in your house and you can use a screwdriver and hammer, this book will tell you how to renovate them. I have been rebuilding windows for 40 years, and still get good ideas from this book. Well worth twice the price.

We couldn't have begun without this book. I can't say enough about how helpful it is. Mr. Meany aka Mr. Windows completely demystifies the process giving us the confidence to tackle our 1927 double

hung windows. Couldn't be happier with this book.

If you want to repair your windows this is the book to buy. My first reaction would be tear them out! Now that I have learned to appreciate old houses and the value of keeping them original this book was a great asset. It was well illustrated, informative and written in an easy to understand style. The author interjects some light hearted humor to keep it real. This book shows simple and proper techniques to paint, reglaze, free up those old windows, repair the weight system without destroying the window, weather strip and much more.

I've read through this, and done a little bit of work on my windows. I'm getting ready to start restoring them a few at a time in the spring. This has a lot of great information in it. I like that he lists vendors that supply good quality hardware and materials for old windows.

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