CARE GUIDE · UPVC WINDOWS & DOORS

uPVC Window & Door Care Guide

uPVC windows and doors need very little looking after, but a few simple habits keep them working smoothly and looking good for many years. Here is how to care for your SOVU uPVC windows, French doors, patio doors and entrance doors.

Cleaning uPVC frames

Wash white uPVC with a mild solution of washing-up liquid and warm water. For stubborn marks, use a non-abrasive uPVC cleaner sparingly and buff it off. On woodgrain or coloured (foiled) frames, use soapy water only – never solvents or cream cleaners. Small scratches on coloured frames can be touched in with a matching pen.

Locks, hinges and seals

- Oil window hinge pivots and the sliding parts of the locking strip with a drop of light machine oil, and wipe off the excess.
- Put a smear of petroleum jelly on the window keeps.
- On doors, oil the hook bolts, rollers and latch – but never put oil in the key cylinder, which is packed with special grease.
- Check the outside sealant between frame and brickwork from time to time. Some discolouration is normal.

Drainage and condensation

Windows and doors have drainage slots at the bottom of the frame that let any water escape outside. Keep them clear and flush them through with water now and then.

Condensation on the inside usually means the room needs more ventilation – open trickle vents, use extractor fans and keep curtains slightly away from the glass. Condensation on the outside of the glass on cold mornings is a good sign: it means the glass is keeping the heat in.

Using tilt and turn windows

Close the window fully before changing the handle position. Handle horizontal and pull: the window tilts in at the top for ventilation. Close it, turn the handle upwards and pull: it opens fully inwards for cleaning or escape.

Security tips

- Lock windows when closed and remove the keys, but keep them nearby and out of sight from outside for emergency escape.
- Don't leave ground-floor windows on the night vent when the house is empty.
- On doors, lift the handle fully and turn the key to throw all the locking points.

Frequently asked questions

What should I clean uPVC windows with?

Warm water and a little washing-up liquid. For stubborn marks on white frames use a non-abrasive uPVC cleaner. On coloured or woodgrain frames use soapy water only.

How often should I oil uPVC window hinges?

Once a year is usually enough – one drop of light machine oil on each pivot point, then wipe off the excess.

Why is there condensation on the outside of my windows?

It happens with energy-efficient glass on cold mornings and is completely normal. It shows the glass is keeping heat inside.

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