

## DURING INSTALLATION

Ensuring your windows and doors are installed correctly is essential for their long-term performance, efficiency, and durability. Follow these key guidelines for a seamless and effective installation.

### 1. SHIMMING AND BLOCKING

#### Proper Shim Placement

Correctly placing shims and blocks is essential to evenly distribute the glass weight to the frame, preventing sagging or distortion over time.

- **Picture Windows:** Glass support is typically located about 12 inches from each corner. Ensure blocking and shimming under these areas for proper weight transfer, even on wide windows. Large picture windows (e.g., 10 feet wide) are supported at only two points – proper placement is critical.
- **Shimming Best Practices:** Insert shims snugly but avoid excessive force, as overtightening can warp the frame over time. Ensure even weight distribution to prevent long-term structural issues.

#### Operable or Combination Windows

- Place blocks beneath jamb legs and around mullions and transoms for structural integrity.
- Add blocking behind lock points and installation straps or screws for secure fastening.
- Support fixed glass sections by blocking under the glass support areas.

#### Shim Spacing Recommendations

- For picture windows, strap, screw, anchor, and block approximately every 20 to 28 inches.
- For operable windows and doors, secure shims at each lock point and hinge for stability.

### 2. LOCK STRIKERS

#### Removing Lock Strikers

Lock strikers can be removed to install screws behind them, allowing the fasteners to be fully concealed when reinstalled.

#### Preventing Wood Damage

- When reinstalling lock strikers, always use a hand-held screwdriver to avoid stripping the wood.
- Do not use impact drivers, as they can damage the wood and compromise the striker's secure fit.

### 3. PLUMB, LEVEL, AND SQUARE FRAMES

#### Ensure Proper Alignment

All frames must be installed plumb, level, and square to ensure proper operation and longevity. If adjustments are needed, use the hardware to fine-tune the alignment.

#### Special Consideration for Euro Doors

- Due to their weight, Euro doors may need to be installed slightly out of plumb on the hinge side to compensate for natural settling over time.
- This proactive adjustment ensures that as the door sags, it will align properly with the frame.
- For detailed guidance, [contact us](#) for a Euro door installation manual.

### 4. AIR AND WEATHER BARRIERS

#### Interior Air Barrier

Apply an airtight tape (e.g., Siga Fentrim 20) or rod and caulk on the interior face of the window frame to create a reliable air barrier.

#### Exterior Weather Barrier

- The exterior face of the window frame serves as the weather barrier.
- Use a vapor-permeable tape (e.g., Siga Wigluv or Fentrim 2) to allow moisture to escape from the cavity between the window and the rough opening.
- Plan ahead! These specialized tapes are available through Small Planet Supply in Vancouver but may not be stocked at local lumber yards.

#### Avoid Cladding Seals

For wood-aluminum clad windows, always tape to the wood frame, not the aluminum cladding, as the cladding is not designed to be airtight or watertight.

### 5. INSULATION

#### Cavity Insulation

Fill the gap between the window and rough opening (the space between the interior air barrier and exterior weather sealing tape) with insulation such as loose-pack batt insulation or Rockwool.

#### Avoid Expanding Foams

Do not use expanding foams in new wood-frame construction, as they can:

- Prevent proper airflow within the cavity.
- Transfer building stresses (from settling or movement) onto the window frame, potentially causing warping or operational issues.

## AFTER INSTALLATION

After installing your windows and doors, it's essential to protect them throughout the construction process to preserve their finish and ensure proper functionality. Follow these key guidelines to keep them in top condition;

### 1. PROTECT THE WINDOWS AND DOORS

#### **Prevent Physical Damage and Contamination**

Safeguard windows and doors from dust, dirt, paint, and other contaminants that could compromise their finish or interfere with essential components like locking mechanisms, gaskets, and drainage channels. A common issue is dust and debris accumulating around the glass, which can be prevented by covering the windows properly.

#### **Use Plastic Sheeting**

When covering windows with plastic sheeting, cut small slits to allow airflow and prevent condensation from forming inside the frame.

#### **Avoid Abrasive Covers**

Do not use cardboard, ram board, or similar abrasive materials, as they can scratch or damage the painted finish.

### 2. MANAGE HUMIDITY DURING CONSTRUCTION

#### **Control Moisture to Protect Windows**

High humidity levels, especially during painting or drywall work, can lead to moisture damage. Take proactive steps to prevent this:

- **Ventilate the Space:** Crack open windows for short periods to allow fresh air circulation.
- **Use Dehumidifiers:** Install dehumidifiers to maintain optimal moisture levels and protect window and door materials.

### 3. KEEP WINDOWS AND DOORS CLOSED AND LOCKED

#### **Prevent Warping and Misalignment**

Keep windows and doors closed and fully locked during construction to maintain their shape and stability as the environment changes.

#### **Warranty Advisory**

Fenstür is not responsible for any warping or twisting caused by leaving windows or doors open or unlocked during construction.

## 4. LIMIT USE AND PROTECT HIGH-TRAFFIC AREAS

### Minimize Use

Reduce the use of windows and doors during construction, especially in high-traffic areas. If necessary, install temporary sashes or frames to protect them from potential damage.

### Prevent Damage From Welding or Grinding

Keep welding and grinding activities away from windows and doors to avoid pitting or damage to the glass, wood, or hardware finishes.

### Keep Frames Clear

Do not run hoses or cords through window or door frames to prevent unnecessary strain or damage.

## 5. MAINTAIN CLEANLINESS

### Remove Dust Immediately

Prevent damage by promptly removing dust from wood, stone, concrete, drywall, or other construction materials before it accumulates on windows and doors.

### Avoid Taping or Drilling

Do not apply tape, adhesives, or nails to finished surfaces unless they will be covered by trim. Avoid drilling into or compromising the wood surface. If blemishes occur, use the provided touch-up finish immediately to maintain the unit's appearance.

## 6. POST-CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS

### Final Inspection

After construction, thoroughly inspect windows and doors for cleanliness and proper function. Ensure seals, rubber gaskets, and drainage areas are free of debris or contaminants.

### Handle Installation

Delay installing hardware, such as handles and hinge covers, until just before move-in. Confirm that handles and locks for lift-and-slide and swinging entry doors have been ordered, as these are not included with the windows (only windows come with factory-installed handles).

## 7. BLOWER TEST FOR AIR LEAKAGE

### Blower Test Setup

To check for air leaks before an official test, pressurize your home by sealing a door opening with plastic and using a leaf blower to introduce air into the building. This simple method helps identify leaks early, saving time and costs.

### Leak Detection

With all doors and windows closed and locked, use a smoke pen around the edges to detect air leaks. Make necessary adjustments and immediately retest to confirm a proper seal. Addressing leaks in advance will improve the accuracy and results of your blower test.