



Removal and Disposal of Aluminum Window

1 Removing Aluminum Window

Single-hung windows and horizontal sliders typically have one operating sash and the other glass directly set into the frame. An insect screen can be mounted on the exterior or interior side of the operating sash.

2 Remove operating sashes from the window frame.

Depending on the type of window there are several different ways to do this. Some have clips designed to release sash while others have spiral balance systems.

3 Remove Window

- Cut the caulk seal around the inside of the aluminum frame using a utility knife with a sharp blade.
- Remove the glazing bead using pliers. Once glazing bead is removed heat the glass edges by swirling a propane torch held about 8 inches away until the adhesive holding the glass in the aluminum window frame softens. Take a utility knife and cut through the heated adhesive to loosen glass for removal. Put on work gloves and press the glass out of the frame. Lift the glass out of the frame and set it aside.
- Remove any screws anchoring the aluminum window frame to surrounding wood, block or masonry.
- Collapse sash and remove sash.
- Cut the stationary meeting rail in half with a reciprocating saw. Collapse the window inward at the midpoints of head, sill and both jambs. Cut the sill in half and use that to leverage the frame in from the bottom corners to top corners. You may need a degree of force, as the windows aren't designed to be easily removed.
- Clean the opening to prepare for new window.

4 Proper disposal or recycling of products being removed

Proper disposal of products being removed is important. Most of the parts of the removed window can be recycled such as the aluminum frames, glass and old wood windows can be sold to antique stores as they are often used for artistic decorations. If you are disposing of lead paint debris, refer to www.epa.gov/lead for proper disposal instructions.