



## PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE – WINDOWS

The Ultimate benefit for choosing Vinyl windows is that they are the most maintenance free product in relation to exterior building products. Although rain usually does a satisfactory job removing dirt from vinyl window and door frames, follow these simple instructions if necessary to keep them clean and looking as good as new. You should inspect all your windows at least once a year to prolong the life of your product. Here are a few steps to insure you get the maximum warranty, and to make your windows look like new for many years to come.

- Use a soft cloth or long-handled soft-bristle brush and rinse with low pressure spray
- If necessary, use a mild abrasive cleaner such as SoftScrub®, Ajax®, BonAmi®, etc. (**Note:** the use of any abrasive material could have a detrimental effect on the surface of glass and window or door frames.)
- Do not use cleaners containing aggressive organic solvents (such as chlorine bleach; liquid grease remover; strong soaps and detergents containing organic solvents) because they could damage the surface appearance of the vinyl.
- Use the readily available household cleaners listed below for tough dirt and stains such as top soil, caulking, rust or mold and mildew. Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions on use of cleaners.

## WINDOW SCREENS

You need to use extra caution when handling screens. The easiest way to clean a screen is to lay it on a flat surface, apply a non-harsh cleaning solution and let it soak for two minutes. After this process is complete you can go forward by using a low pressure spray, such as garden hose and rinse it off.

## HARDWARE

It is always recommended to clean and lubricate regularly to prevent excess wear on hardware mechanisms. This can be done by using diluted household cleaner to wipe hardware clean. Make sure to rinse with water to remove any excess detergent or cleaner. Another easy way to lubricate the hardware is to use silicone spray, as this will maintain and prolong its life.

## GLASS SURFACES

Use vinegar-based cleaner or mild dish washing soap when cleaning your glass. Wipe glass in a circular motion with light-moderate pressure, from top to bottom to give it a nice streak free finish. When cleaning your windows always make sure to avoid ammonia or alcohol based cleaners, as they will leave streaks. Refer to our Cardinal Glass tab to view additional techniques based on glass types.

## CONDENSATION

If you do not keep your home well ventilated, you will have more moisture in your home. This will create condensation to form when warm moist air comes in contact with cooler dry air. The inside or outside of your window can sweat or fog because of temperature differentials. Ventilation is the most effective way to remove moisture from your home. By exchanging some of the drier outdoor winter air for warm humid interior air, the moisture level inside the house will be reduced. To avoid any condensation always make



sure to run your kitchen fan while cooking, run the exhaust fan when taking a shower, and leave it running for a minimum of 15 minutes after your shower. Shutting off the furnace humidifier in winter months is highly recommended.

### **Cleaners to Remove Stains from Vinyl and Wood Door Frames\***

<b>Bubble gum</b>	Fantastik®; Murphy Oil Soap®; Solution of 30% vinegar and 70% water; Windex®
<b>Crayon</b>	Lestoil® DAP (oil-based caulk) Fantastik®
<b>Felt-tip Pen</b>	Fantastik®; water-based cleaners
<b>Grass</b>	Fantastik®; Lysol®; Murphy Oil Soap®; Windex®
<b>Lipstick</b>	Fantastik®; Murphy Oil Soap®
<b>Lithium Grease</b>	Fantastik®; Lestoil®; Windex®
<b>Mold and Mildew</b>	Fantastik®; Solution of 30% vinegar and 70% water; Windex®
<b>Motor Oil</b>	Fantastik®; Lysol®; Windex®
<b>Oil</b>	SoftScrub®
<b>Paint</b>	Brillo® Pad; SoftScrub®
<b>Pencil</b>	SoftScrub®
<b>Rust</b>	Fantastik®; Windex®
<b>Tar</b>	SoftScrub®
<b>Top Soil</b>	Fantastik®; Lestoil®;

**\*Disclaimer:**

1. DEL Windows & Doors does not endorse proprietary products or processes and makes no warranties for the products referenced herein. Reference to proprietary names is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to imply that there are not equally effective alternatives.
2. The Vinyl Window and Door Institute conducted a study on the efficiency of cleaning agents and their effects on the appearance of vinyl window frames after two years of outdoor exposure.