

News Release

Contact: Kathy Ziprik
828-890-8065
kathy_ziprik@simonton.com

Caring for Window Screens

PARKERSBURG, W. VA. – Throw open the windows --- summertime is here! Oftentimes overlooked during yearly maintenance, window screens need regular cleaning and care. Experts at Simonton Windows® recommend removing and cleaning window screens every year for maximum performance in the home.

“Window screens are generally made of fiberglass or aluminum mesh,” says Christopher Burk, product manager for Simonton Windows. “Properly maintained screens allow for maximum airflow into the home and prevent insects from getting in the house.”

Cleaning Tips

To clean window screens, remove the screens from the window frame, following the manufacturer’s instructions. Place the screens on a flat surface (such as the driveway) and use mild soap and water with a soft bristle brush to remove dirt and grime. Clean both sides of the screen and around the interior and exterior of the frame. Rinse off the unit with lukewarm water. Allow the screen to dry completely before replacing in the window.

“Homeowners should make sure to never pressure wash screens or windows because the force of the water can damage the units,” says Burk. “Also, use extreme care when cleaning aluminum mesh, since it can be dented or creased if too much pressure is placed on the screen.”

Maintaining Your Screens

While most window screens may remain in the windows year-round, some homeowners prefer to store screens during winter months. If you choose to remove your window screens, make certain to store them either in an upright or flat position. Covering them with plastic or a sheet will keep them clean while in storage. And, make sure nothing sits on top of (or leans against) the screens to eliminate the chance of bending of the frames or poking a hole in the screens.

If a small hole or tear does occur in your screen, patch kits are available in most hardware and home stores. Homeowners unhappy with the look of a patch (or who have a large gash in their screen) may choose to get the screen mesh replaced on the entire unit. Many cities have screen repair services where you can take your screen frame and have new mesh added to replace torn mesh.

Screens and Safety

Burk reminds homeowners that screens are not meant for animals or children to lean up against. “Screens can be damaged or pop out if a child or animal pushes against them with enough force,” says Burk. “You should never consider a screen a safety feature in the home ... they’re available only to allow in the flow of air, not to restrict anything of force.”

Another safety tip for the home is not to place cribs or furniture directly under a window. Children can climb on furnishings and push out on the screens when the windows are open, resulting in a potential fall.

“Window screens are terrific for ventilating the house and keeping insects outside, but that’s all they’re intended to do,” says Burk. “Homeowners should maintain their screens regularly and make sure to keep the bottom sash of windows closed when children and pets are around to prevent potential problems.”

Simonton Windows produces ENERGY STAR[®] qualified replacement and new construction windows and doors, including a line of impact-resistant products. The company was ranked #1 in quality in the 2007 Brand Use Study sponsored by *Builder*

magazine and has won two consecutive Best In Class Awards for being ranked “Overall Top Rated Vinyl Window Brand” in unaided industry studies.

Founded in 1946, Simonton’s hallmark has been to deliver its made-to-order products in seven days or less. Part of consumer products company Fortune Brands, Inc. (NYSE: FO), Simonton has manufacturing facilities in Pennsboro, Harrisville and Ellenboro, W.Va.; Paris, Ill.; McAlester, Okla.; and Vacaville, Calif. Simonton is a founding sponsor of The Weather Museum and a corporate partner of Homes for Our Troops. For information, call (800) SIMONTON or visit www.simonton.com.