Windows, doors and skylights often have a simple drainage system or “weep” system designed into the frames and/or weather seal system to allow for accumulated water to drain to the exterior of the building. These water drainage pathways must be kept open and clean for the window or door to operate correctly.

- Some products are designed with sloped sills to allow water to drain to the exterior as the slope system is clear.
- Keep all tear or debris from the sill or track area.
- Make sure that outside weepholes are kept clear of any dirt, sand, stucco, or screens around the skylights.
- If the weepholes contain insect screening consult your manufacturer’s cleaning instructions.
- AAMA/industry Color Standard

Some degree of color variation is allowed for by industry standards. These standards limit acceptable color change to 5% as long as the variation is equal in light and dark conditions. In terms of the glass units, there are two categories: visual and structural. The higher the interior air RH and/or the lower the temperature of the interior surfaces, the greater the potential for condensation to occur.

- Condensation on the inside surfaces of a window, door or skylight is the result of interior air with a high moisture content (relative humidity – RH) condensing on colder exterior frame or glass. The lower the interior air RH and/or the lower the temperature of the exterior surfaces, the greater the potential for condensation to occur.
- Today’s buildings are built “tighter” to reduce air exchange between the interior and exterior. This can lead to excessive moisture being trapped within the building envelope.

- Integlated window ventilators and air exchange devices can increase building air changes and help ventilate excessive humidity. Open windows, doors and skylights whenever practical or possible to allow interior moisture to escape.

- On new occasions, a window, door or skylight in a cold climate may have condensation on the interior of the unit.

This is due to radiant cooling of the exterior life of glass in very high performing products and is not a cause for concern. In extreme conditions, moisture may freeze to form rime that can limit operability of the unit. In hot, humid climates, exterior condensation may also be prevalent, particularly in the early morning, due to the cooling of the glass from exterior air conditioning. If you are experiencing this, replace the product with a higher performing or alternative material may lessen or prevent further occurrences.

Many factors can affect the color and finish of windows, doors, skylights and hardware. AAMA has established an industry color variation standard for factory applied paints and coatings on aluminum (extrusions and anodizing), fiberglass, vinyl and cellulose composites and other materials.

The AAMA standard provides a method of measuring your window, door and skylight products’ compliance with color variation requirements.

Plastic skylight glazing can be made from a number of different materials. Just like the plastic lenses in sunglasses, plastic skylight glazing requires special care for best performance.

- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning.
- Plastic glazing is susceptible to scratching, abrasion and other damage by certain solvents and cleaning chemicals. Avoid the use of gasoline, acetone, ammonia, carbon tetrachloride or denatured alcohol in the use of abrasives, abrasive pads, paper towels or high efficient cleaning systems. Keep the skylight surfaces of clear, squeaky clean and handle them with care.

- Caring for your plastic glazed skylights

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Tips on caring for your products

It is important to understand your manufacturer’s warranty and have your windows installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions for best performance.

- Clean tracks and weepholes using a dry paint brush or vacuum attachment. The use of oil-based lubricants can damage the weepholes. Weepholes help channel water out of the window or door, so be sure they are free of debris.
- Check weatherstripping, hardware and caulking and replace broken, worn or damaged parts. Poor performing components can decrease security or energy efficiency.
- Replace the risk of an unseen environment or loss of energy efficiency by having windows, doors and skylights closed and locked when not in use.
- Choose windows, doors and skylights designed and sample tested to meet stringent air, water and thermal performance standards. Look for the AAMA Gold Label to verify this testing and certification.
- Clean tracks and weepholes as directed by the manufacturer. If you live in an area with saltwater or acidic rain, it’s a good idea to rinse the exterior of your windows and doors several times a year with water to help protect them from the harsh elements. Use caution if you are using a hose to rinse the exterior of your windows. Use of a razor blade, putty knife or abrasive pad may damage your window.
- Avoid abrasive or caustic cleaners or solvents that might cause permanent damage to the frame finish.
- Use with a mild, non abrasive soap or detergent is usually safest for most dirt and stain removal. Always test cleaners in an inconspicuous area first.
- Avoid washing glass in direct sunlight to reduce streaking of the glass.
- Clean screens by gently vacuuming with a brush attachment. Or, remove for cleaning and gently vacuum or wash on a flat, clean surface with mild detergent is usually safest for most dirt and stain removal.
- Always test cleaners in an inconspicuous area first.
- Avoid abrasive, petroleum-based or caustic cleaners as they may cause damage to the finish or the frame.

How long will your products last?

The lifespan and performance depend upon many factors including but not limited to:
- Component and manufacturing quality
- Building design, construction practices and product installation
- Climate, media and exposure
- Proper care and maintenance
- Replacement of worn parts

Tips for cleaning glass

Glass care today is more important than ever.

- Insulating, low or heat reflective glass requires proper maintenance to ensure best performance over the life of the product.
- Never use a razor blade, putty knife, steel wool, abrasive pad or anything that may scratch the glass surface.
- Never use a pressure washer or high pressure water or high pressure water spray to wash or rinse windows, doors or skylights as this can degrade seals and weepholes and damage frame components.
- Clean glass with a unigrafix cleaner or mixture of a mild soap or detergent and water. Rinse completely with clear water, then wipe dry with a soft cloth or a squeegee to help water spot removal. Always test cleaners in an inconspicuous area first.
- Avoid washing glass in direct sunlight to reduce streaking of the glasses.
- Never use a razor blade, putty knife, steel wool or abrasive pad to clean applies to more than just the glass.

Additional maintenance tips

To help ensure that your windows, doors and skylights remain smooth, easy to operate, clean, closed and lock for years to come, refer to your owner’s manual or manufacturer’s website. In addition, follow these helpful maintenance tips.

- Moving hardware parts, tracks and rollers should be lubricated periodically according to manufacturer’s recommendations. Poor performing components can decrease security or energy efficiency.

- Moisture or fogging between glass panes, frame components.

- Keep your windows, doors and skylights smoothly and silently open, closed, locked and unlocked for years to come, refer to your owner’s manual or manufacturer’s website. In addition, follow these helpful maintenance tips.

- Moving hardware parts, tracks and rollers should be lubricated periodically according to manufacturer’s recommendations. Poor performing components can decrease security or energy efficiency. Some examples are:

- Rolling screen doors may be adjusted to perform more efficiently. Consult your manufacturer’s recommendations for specific details.
- Inspect gaps and joints regularly according to manufacturer’s recommendations. Repair or replace, broken, worn or damaged parts. Poor performing components can decrease security or energy efficiency. Some examples are:

- Crack, dents or marred surfaces
- Moisture or fogging between glass panes
- Weatherstripping and caulking that is missing, cracked or damaged should be replaced
- Removal screen doors may be adjusted to run smoothly. Use a screwdriver—often in all door components—to make adjustments. You may also adjust the lock using placement by loosening screw fasteners, mounting the whole plate and retightening to check for proper lock operation.
- Always test cleaners in an inconspicuous area first.
- Never use a pressure washer or high pressure water spray to wash or rinse windows, doors or skylights as this can degrade seals and weepholes and damage frame components.
- Clean glass with a unigrafix cleaner or mixture of a mild soap or detergent and water. Rinse completely with clear water, then wipe dry with a soft cloth or a squeegee to help water spot removal. Always test cleaners in an inconspicuous area first.
- Avoid washing glass in direct sunlight to reduce streaking of the glasses.

How long will a window, door or skylight last?
The lifespan and performance depend upon many factors including but not limited to:
- Component and manufacturing quality
- Building design, construction practices and product installation
- Climate, media and exposure
- Proper care and maintenance
- Replacement of worn parts