AROUND THE HOUSE

Vinyl windows needn't be a pain



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Wood windows can maintain charm wood windows can maintain charm in many homes, but more often than not, they will be replaced by a consider-able number of homeowners with vinyl windows, which generally offer better operability and insulation capability.

Like many home repairs or replacements, replacing wood windows with vinyl replacement windows is something handy homeowners can do with basic instructions.

Here is a step-by-step plan to help you remove the old sash (the part of the window that moves up and down) and

install a vinyl replacement window.

1. Measure the opening between the two side jambs and the top and bottom of the sash. Generally, the top sash and

of the sash. Generally, the top sash and bottom sash are the same size.

Once you get these measurements, take off about 1/4-inch from the sides and top and bottom because you will need room to install the windows. If a window is severely out of square, or racked, you may want to order new

windows 1/2-inch smaller on each of the sides, top and bottom, instead of 1/4-

Example: If the window is 30 inches

Example: If the window is 30 inches by 50 inches, you are going to make the window 29-34 inches by 49-34 inches tall, if 1/4-inch is all you need.

2. Order the windows and wait until they come in before you take out the old sash. Carefully remove the window stop beads, which are the pieces of trim that are nailed to the jambs that hold the sash in place. Once you remove the top bead, take out the bottom sash. It isn't uncommon to break some of the stop bead, take out the bottom sash. It isn't uncommon to break some of the stop beads when taking them out, so be careful. You may want to buy extras if you are replacing a number of windows.

you are replacing a number of windows.

3. There will be another wood bead, often called the parting bead, which is between the two window snahes and keeps them apart. This will have to be chiscled off. You will then be able to take the top sash out. The opening will be ready to receive the replacement

window, and the interior and exterior trims are left in place.

4. Install the replacement window 4. Install the replacement window into the opening as explained in the manufacturer's suggestions. Make sure they are plumb and level and secured with screws. Replace the top window sash stop beads and paint or refinish

any marred trim.

The cost of the window is generally between \$100 and \$150 for a visyl between \$100 and \$200 to it will replacement window with insulated glass. Variables are size, quality and features. For professional installation, anticipate an additional \$75 to \$150 per window. These are general rules of thumb.

Around the House, by the AmeriSpec home inspection service of Plymouth, instructs homeowners about the basics of home maintenance and repair. If you have a question, write to: Around the House At Home, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Hardy plant pruning to be discussed at meeting

The Hardy Plant Society, Great Lakes chapter, will present a program on pruning techniques for hardy plants 7 p.m. Monday, June 17.

Carl Simmons will lead a group dis-cussion on the topic at the Bloomfield Hills Bowers School Farm, 1219 E. Square Lake Road. Lake Road. Guest

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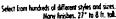
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