

Published based on [The Allure Of Box Sash Windows](#)

# **The Allure Of Box Sash Windows**

Sash windows are attractive features of many homes. The word "sash" means a frame or panel holding the glass of a window or door. As such, it might be a term used to describe parts of most types of windows and doors. But over the years it has come to be used more or less exclusively for windows that are open and shut by sliding the glass panels.

Because they are fitted into grooves the frames or panels are able to slide independently of each other. Because the grooves for each is separate from the other, the panels can even slide beside each other in a sort of overlap arrangement. Usually they slide up and down, i. E. Vertically. However, occasionally these windows are manufactured to allow for horizontal sliding. This construction is however, quite rare.

Occasionally such windows where each panel has just single large pane are encountered. This is unusual. Most are made up of panels containing an equal number of small panes. These are also called "lights". These lights are separated one from the other but thin pieces of wood called muntin bars. These muntin bars are themselves fixed to the outer thicker rails.

Each panel is made up of side rails called styles style and top and bottom rails. The top rail on the bottom panel and the bottom rail on the top panel, which sit flush with each other when the window is closed, are thus called "meeting rails".

The single most important component of such windows is hidden away. On each side window behind the wooden frame is a hollow area. This is called a box, or a case. Inside the box are weights. These weights are connected to the window frames and act as counter weights. Without them it would be next to impossible to open the windows.

Each panel has its own two counter weights. There is a cord called a sash cord attached to the panel's hidden sides. This cord passes up the side window frame's grooves and over a recessed pulley at the top. It then comes down inside the box section where it is attached to the weight. These weights together are nearly the same weight as the frame, so that with them attached, lifting is no longer a problem. They even allow the frame to remain at whatever height the owner wishes, with no risk of it falling down.

These attractive windows can last a lifetime and give few problems. Unfortunately, usually due to questionable workmanship, this is not all the case. Many people encounter one or all of these problems. Rattling. This caused by careless fitting or the expansion of wooden parts. It can also be caused by the wind. This problem can relatively easily be remedied by a skilled craftsman. As can the problem of jamming or sticking. This is usually caused by sloppy painting, or by the wood expanding over time.

Most people find Sash windows to be very aesthetically appealing. This is generally only true, though when they are installed in a period style residence. Installation in an inappropriate building usually has the opposite effect.

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