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# **Authentic Restoration And Sash Window Refurbishment And Your Classic Look**

Many years ago all houses used windows held in wooden frames called a sash. Most are double frame to allow one frame to move up and down. Many decades ago aluminium frames began to be use in home construction. Over time with new and improved technologies vinyl windows began to replace aluminium. These new windows are very popular but when installed in a classic home can give an odd impression and look. Sash window refurbishment can be done to restore these houses to their regular condition, and with proper installation and storm windows can provide similar performance.

Inside these wood framed panes, and inside the casing are two iron counter weights. These weights are attached to a rope that runs through a pulley which you should see at the top of the casement in the channel the framework runs up and down in. If it is a working window you should see the rope in the middle of the channel.

When the rope wears through the weight will drop down inside the casing. This renders the whole thing unmovable. The remaining weight only serves to jam the framework more freezing the whole system. When this happens sometimes the other cord is cut deliberately so the unit can be opened. Of course now the frame needs to be propped open to prevent it from crashing down now relieved of the counter balance.

After the ropes break the window is only opened with great difficulty. Sometimes they are painted over and over and eventually welded shut with all the paint.

Repairing can be done if you have access to the knockout panels. Knockout panels allow a narrow access to the weights. These panels might be secured with screws. You should be able to see a line where the panel meet the casing. Sometimes the window needs to be open to get to them and they are not in a standard position. Otherwise you need to remove the interior trim around the assembly on both sides.

If you replace the rope, which is a great idea, nylon will be a good choice as it doesn't wear. All rope stretches over time so be sure the length is right. The weight of a open frame should be about the bottom frame of the window opening. It should swing freely when the unit is all the way open.

Attaching the rope to the framework will need to be done with the framework entirely free from the casing. This is the only way to get at the correct spot to allow this to happen. There are metal fittings on the side of the frame for attaching the cord. The old cord is likely to be there and you can tell what kind of knot was used.

Old fashioned windows with the proper materials and installation can be as efficient as the modern ubiquitous vinyl ones. Sash window refurbishment can retain the historic charm you home had in the past. With proper care some maintenance there is no reason these windows can not last as long as the newer models. This can be quite a job so working or consulting with a knowledgeable construction contractor with experience in older homes is recommended.

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