



Getting your Windows Ready for Spring

It won't be long before happy homeowners revel in the sunshine and warm fresh air that the spring season brings. However, now is the time to ensure that your home's windows and skylights are in good working order and ready to welcome spring.

Proper care and maintenance of existing windows and skylights and the replacement of older models makes it possible to improve your home's energy efficiency and appearance – and best of all, helps you prepare for spring.

- ✓ Clean the window and skylight glass – soak glass with clean water and mild soap to loosen dirt and debris. Use a mild, non-abrasive cleaner and a soft brush or pad to clean the glass. Immediately removing the cleaning solution with a squeegee or lint-free cloth. Never use metal scrapers or knives as they can scratch and even damage the glass.
- ✓ Check all pre-finished window and skylight frames – inspect them every year before spring and look for signs of peeling, cracking and/or fading that will need re-finishing. Refinish or paint as needed by following the manufacturer's guidelines. Ensure that all exterior fasteners are secure and look over all cladding and flashing making certain they are free of excessive wear and scratching. Immediately replace any damaged claddings and flashings.
- ✓ For fresh air (venting) skylights, homeowners should be sure to check the mechanism that opens the sash. Open skylights (and then turn off the power if your skylight is electric) and use a clean, dry towel to wipe off the chain. Don't use cleaner or solvent. If your skylight has blinds (which improve its overall energy-efficiency), inspect those as well to ensure they're working properly.

While maintaining windows and skylights can extend their useful life, even the best-made products will eventually need replacement. If your home has older model windows and skylights, replacing them before spring with Energy Star-qualified models can help improve your home's overall energy efficiency, prevent water leaks and enhance the look of your home.

Let NARI-BIE help you find the right contractor to get the job done. Founded in 1952 as the Business Industries Exchange, and affiliating with the National Association of the Remodeling Industry in 2012, NARI-BIE is a local not-for-profit trade association. To learn more about NARI-BIE, interested readers can visit our website at nari-bie.org or contact our office by calling 610.323.1700.