

Timber windows information sheet

All windows in Port Sunlight's listed buildings are protected features. This includes windows at the front, sides and rear of the property and roof lights. Windows contribute to the heritage value of the listed properties and the character of the conservation area.

If properly maintained, timber windows can last for 100 years or longer. On-going maintenance and minor repairs are far more economical than like-for-like replacement. PSVT would always recommend maintenance and repair over replacement of an original or appropriate window. Replacement requires Listed Building Consent from Wirral Council and permission from PSVT.

What to look for?

Windows should be inspected annually. Check for

- Deterioration of interior paint finishes and mould on interior surfaces
- Cracked, flaking or loss of exterior paint or finishes
- Open joints between the window frame and the wall
- Open or misaligned joints in timber
- Rotten or cracked wood
- Cracked, loose or missing glazing putty
- Draughts
- Windows that do not open or close properly

Window cills and bottom sections of the sash and frames tend to be the most vulnerable to damp and rot. These features can be repaired or replaced in kind by a heritage joiner with experience restoring timber windows.

Maintenance or repairs

- Prepare and paint approximately every five years, or as required.
- Exterior surfaces of windows should be painted according to the approved colour scheme. To find out the approved colour for your house, please refer to the **Paint colour schedule**.
- Remove built-up paint to ensure windows operate smoothly.
- Fill minor losses or cracks with epoxy resin.
- Replace missing or damaged putty.
- Clean ironmongery.

More advanced repairs should be undertaken by a joiner experienced with the construction, restoration and refurbishment of period timber windows.

Strategies to improve thermal performance of timber windows

- Refurbish your windows to open and close properly
- Renew the glazing putty and replace damaged or missing beads
- Install draught-proofing on the sash and frame
- Install heavy drapes or curtains
- Install secondary glazing. Please note that secondary glazing requires consent from Wirral Council. Consent is typically granted through an informal process. Contact PSVT's Asset Manager (Conservation) for more information.

Lead paint advisory

Paints found in older buildings may contain lead. Lead can be harmful to health, particularly for children. Sometimes lead paint has been covered by later, modern paints. If you are unsure if the paint used in your house (including windows, doors, walls, trim and other surfaces) contains lead, it should be assumed to be present and precautions should be taken when stripping, sanding or otherwise preparing painted surfaces.

For more information see:

- **Leaded light window information sheet**
- **Metal window information sheet**