

# Sealing Windows

Cold air entering through drafty windows is inconvenient and expensive: The heating has to work against the cold coming in and thus needs more energy. Often it is not difficult, however, to seal windows without great efforts. Here we explain how, using the example of wooden box windows. If you have another type of window, we recommend that you ask in the DIY store or research on the Internet how to apply the seals. In principle, the procedure is very similar.

## Find out whether / where the window is not tight

Windows are usually the coldest part of the room. Whiffles and a chilly feel are not uncommon near them but that does not always mean that they do not close properly. You can easily check this: Tuck in a sheet of paper and try to pull it out. If it does not move, the window is tight. If it can be torn out but with force, it is still ok. If the paper comes out effortlessly, the window needs sealing. Try this on all four sides of each wing.



After sealing the window, the paper sheet test should be repeated. The insulation was successful if it is much tougher or impossible then to remove the paper!

## Seal the interior windows only!

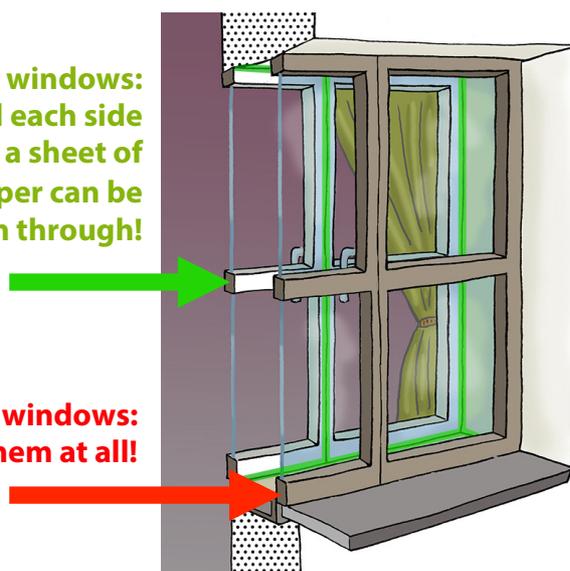
If the exterior wings of a window are damaged, the landlady/landlord is responsible for repairs (in Austria). The tenant is in charge to look after the interior wings. Something else is very important as well:



The exterior windows should not be completely airtight in order to avoid that water condenses on the glass. Moisture between the interior and the exterior windows lets the panes steam up and may lead to mould. Therefore only the interior wings are to be insulated! All the interior wings – including the upper ones – should be checked with the paper sheet method and all their sides should be sealed if necessary!

**Interior windows:  
Seal each side  
where a sheet of  
paper can be  
drawn through!**

**Exterior windows:  
Do not seal them at all!**



## Measuring the gap

Sealing strips are available in different thicknesses. On the packaging you find information regarding the width of the gap that the material is suitable for.



If the sealing strip is too narrow for the gap, it does not insulate well. If it is too wide, closing the window becomes difficult. To find out the right thickness you can use a small piece of modelling clay (for children), attach it to the frame, close the window and open it again. The squeezed clay shows you the width of the sealing strip you need. Repeat the measurement at various parts of each wing. It is often the case that you need different sealing strips for different parts of the same window.



## Clean the surface

Before attaching the sealing strip the wood should be cleaned so that adhesive surface holds well on it. Let the wood dry before you affix the seal.



## Affixing the sealing strip

Then remove the protective foil and affix the strip. If you have not done this type of work before you should initially attach the strip VERY GENTLY so that it can be removed and repositioned easily if necessary. Once it looks nice and straight, press the strip on firmly.



## The strip can be attached to the wing or the frame

The sealing strip can be mounted in any place where the wing touches the frame when the window is closed. A double seal (strip against strip) is also possible but such wide gaps should ideally be repaired by a carpenter.



## Different sealing strips

Beware: There are cheap strips made from foam material. They do not last long and break easily. It is highly recommended to use the slightly more expensive ones made from rubber!

Quality sealing strip made from rubber



Cheap sealing strip made from foam material