Care & maintenance
Windows and doors

Recommendations for care and maintenance – you have made a good choice!

By choosing modern wooden windows and doors you will enjoy the many benefits of a contemporary product. Wooden elements are robust, genuine and valuable. The natural material creates an unforgettably cozy atmosphere, and the surface quality achieved by environmentally-friendly Sikkens Wood Coatings systems meets the highest demands in terms of visual appeal and individuality.

The multiple coat structure built up with Sikkens Wood Coatings coatings ensures that your wooden windows and doors will keep their special qualities for a long time thanks to proper treatment. But like a beautiful garden, wooden elements need regular care. With a low level of regular maintenance, you can be assured of many years of enjoyment from your windows and doors.

Some important information is listed below. Please take time to read this through.

First of all: Installation protection

To avoid damage or stains on frames, sashes or the glazing, all surfaces around the wooden elements should be carefully protected during building, plastering and painting work (this work must be completed within 3 months after window installation). The foils and adhesive tapes used must be free of plasticizers and solvents, as well as being UV- and weather-proof . Please never leave the wooden elements masked or covered for more than two weeks otherwise moisture could build-up in the wood. This could cause damage to the coating.

Suitable adhesive tapes include:

3M:	Scotch 244 paper adhesive tape
kip:	308 FineLine tape / 810 Duoband
Storch:	Brand Tape 4931 "Das Goldene" ("golden")
Tesa:	Surface protection tape 4438 UV

Quite simple: optimum cleaning

Normal dirt can be easily removed with a lint-free cloth and a mild, environmentally friendly detergent (e.g. neutral soap, household cleaner or washing up liquid).

In the case of intensive dirt we recommend the use of Sikkens special cleaner. Please do not use any solvent-based products, solvents or alkaline cleaners. These would attack the surface.

On first cleaning after installation, check all areas of the window. Existing construction and installation damages must be immediately and professionally resolved. Only clean seals stay continuously sealed. This is why they should also be regularly cleaned with mild household detergent.

In next to no time: frame and sash care

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In order to ensure optimum protection of your windows and the brilliance of the color shade for many years, we recommend an annual fresh-up. The easy and clean approach to this is Sikkens maintenance milk. Sikkens maintenance milk ensures protected and visually perfect surfaces. It closes micropores that be caused, for example, by hailstone impact. Sikkens maintenance milk is directly applied to the window frame and sash out of the bottle. The included sponge ensures clean work without sanding, masking, paint splashes or drips.

Before care the surface and the sealant must be thoroughly cleaned; in case of severe soiling, we recommend the use of Sikkens special cleaner.

A Sikkens cleaning cloth is a good choice for caring for your front door.

No problem: repairing minor damage

You can easily repair minor mechanical damage or scratches yourself. First, lightly roughen the affected area with a piece of non-woven fabric. Then, using a small brush, lightly dab on some repair material in the matching color shade two or three times. This spot repair helps to re-seal the surface at the damaged location. For larger surfaces the use of a slightly larger brush is recommended.

Surface maintenance

Our warranty only applies if the required service and maintenance intervals, as shown in table 1 "Classification of coating systems in terms of expected maintenance intervals" from VFF leaflet HO.01 "Classification of coatings for wood windows and front doors," publisher Verband der Fenster und Fassadenhersteller e.V. und Gütegemeinschaft Holzfenster und -haustüren e.V. Frankfurt, Germany (Association of Window and Facade Manufacturers and Quality association wooden windows and front doors) are observed. *(see next page)*

If a sash cover is used, the maintenance interval is extended by one year.

Should maintenance not be necessary at the specified interval, the surface must be reviewed annually until maintenance is performed.

To ensure maintenance and renovation intervals, contractors are advised to conclude maintenance agreements with their customers.

Table 1 Classification of coating systems in terms of expected maintenance intervals

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Surface protection		Stain coatings			Opaque coatings		
Wood types		Coniferous woods [1])		Hardwoods	Coniferous woods [1])		Hardwoods
Load	**Color shade**	High resin content [2])	Low resin content [3])		High resin content [2])	Low resin content [3])	
Indirect Weathering	Without restriction	**6 years**	**6 years**	**8 years**	**8 years**	**8 years**	**10 years**
Normal direct Weathering	Light	**Not suitable**			**5 years**	**6 years**	**8 years**
	Average	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years**	**6 years**	**8 years**
	Dark	**2 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years**	**6 years**	**8 years**
Extreme direct Weathering	Light	**Not suitable**			**4 years**	**5 years**	**5 years**
	Average	**Not suitable**	*2 years*	**3 years**	**3 years**	**4 years**	**5 years**
	Dark	**Not suitable**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**Not suitable**	**4 years**	**5 years**

[1]) Independently of the surface coat, but with an increasing risk in case of darker coats, the use of resinous woods, i.e., almost all coniferous woods, but also some hardwoods, makes the risk of some resin escaping almost unavoidable. Low levels of resin escaping are a natural phenomenon and do not constitute a fault. (see also VFF Data Sheet HO.05).
[2]) e.g., pine, larch
[3]) e.g., spruce, hemlock

External environment/indirect weathering
The building elements are protected by design conditions against precipitation and direct insolation. Other climate influences such as humidity or temperature can act freely on the windows and doors.

Outdoor environment with normal direct weathering
The building elements are located in areas with normal climate loads on buildings with up to three floors. Weathering can act directly on windows and doors.

Outdoor environment with extreme direct weathering
The building elements are installed in areas with high climate loads or on buildings with more than three floors. Or the design does not provide protection to the wood windows and doors (e.g., flush mounting of windows in the facade), i.e., extreme weather conditions can act directly on the dimensionally stable wood parts.

Everything in flux: maintaining fittings

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Your windows are equipped with high-quality fittings. To keep them working perfectly, it is recommended to lubricate all moving parts once every six months. A suitable fine oil (e.g., Fenosol) is available from specialist retailers.

Increasingly important: correct ventilation

In interiors - and especially in new buildings - the humidity in the air is typically greater than outdoors, as warm air can store far more moisture. You can easily see this when you take a bottle out of the cold refrigerator into a warm room. Air that touches the cold bottle, cools and immediately loses moisture which then precipitates on the cold surface of the bottle in the form of fine droplets of water. The same thing happens to the window frame and the glazing. The only difference here is that the condensed moisture can cause moisture damage to the structure and coating. Sikkens Wood Coatings lacquers and stains, with which your wooden building elements are painted, are geared to counter this effect with their controlled water vapor permeability. However, extreme humidity loads can only be prevented by regular ventilation. Correct ventilation means: regular ventilation with widely opened windows instead of continuous ventilation with partially opened windows. This means the air is completely replaced without the walls and furniture cooling down.

We recommend the following products for maintenance and repair:

	Opaque systems	Staining systems
Impregnation	Sikkens Cetol WV 885 BPD+	Sikkens Cetol WV 885 BPD+
Primer	Sikkens Rubbol WP 105	Sikkens Cetol WP 510
Mid coat (2x)	Sikkens Rubbol WF 310 satin matt Sikkens Rubbol WF 318 (satin gloss)	Sikkens Cetol WF 905 matt Sikkens Cetol WF 910 satin matt Sikkens Cetol WF 915 (satin gloss)
Finish coating	Sikkens Rubbol WF 310 satin matt Sikkens Rubbol WF 318 (satin gloss)	Sikkens Cetol WF 905 matt Sikkens Cetol WF 910 satin matt Sikkens Cetol WF 915 (satin gloss)

The coating systems stated above do not claim to be exhaustive and must be viewed as possible examples. Due to the many possible substrates and building conditions, every user must check the Sikkens materials to ensure that they are suited for the intended purpose. Please contact your window manufacturer for further assistance. This information does not constitute a contractual relationship and does not form a basis for legal claims.
For full technical details, please refer to the technical data sheets on www.sikkens-wood-coatings.com.

Warranty

To be eligible to claim for defects within the warranty period, the recommendations for care and maintenance must be observed. Furthermore, the surface coat must be annually checked for mechanical damage.

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Immediate, professional repair of even small damaged areas is mandatory (this must be demonstrated in the event of a claim).

Please report any problems with the coating and/or the window element to the manufacturer without delay.

The warranty does not cover the following:

- Chalking, minor luster or color tone changes of the coating, as well as typical wear, which are deemed normal and unavoidable in the warranty period;
- Damage resulting from hail impact, force majeure, mechanical impact (e.g., during transport and/or installation of the elements, in particular also dust impact), faulty building schedules, permanent building moisture, etc., and equivalent conditions or influences;
- Dampening (including temporary dampening) of the window elements to above 20% during the building and use phases. Beyond this, an appropriate instructions for use of wooden structures leaflet must have been demonstrably handed over by the contractor to its client or, if the client is not the user of the windows, to the user of the windows (via the client);
- Damage resulting from intervention by third parties;
- The warranty does not apply in case of extreme direct weathering, such as buildings in mountainous areas (at 1500 m above sea level or higher), buildings in the direct vicinity of lakes or the sea (up to 250 m).
- Damage to the coating (chipping, flaking, blister formation), which are caused by the moisture exiting through open joints and cracks, or are due to construction defects. Discoloration in the coating and/or resin flow from the wood, which are the result of interaction with constituent parts of the wood, or too high a surface temperature due to a dark color; surface damage due to alkaline substances.

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