

Installation Doors and Windows

Preparation

Window and door joinery can be heavy and difficult to position. Allow for the lifting capacity available on site to match the units weight and location.

Windows and door are generally non-load bearing. The loads generated must be transferred to and carried by the supporting frame.

The opening has to provide a tolerance for movement and settlement. Check that the opening is square, has straight sides and is without twist. Allow for additional clearance to any distortion.

Prepare the joinery for installation. Confirm the size fits into the opening. The unit should be square, with temporary braces fitted. Remove spare keys and keep the sash and doors closed. Retain any packing or protection. Seal any unpainted surfaces of the joinery with a good quality primer

Install the sarking, foil or building wrap as a continuous membrane. Cut at the opening and fold around the studs and trimmers. Tape to form a continuous layer around the sides and bottom of the opening.

Install the head flashing above the opening and the sill flashing under the opening.

Installing windows and pre-hung doors

Position sill packers to support the units adequately. The sills should be supported at a maximum of 150 mm from each jamb, directly underneath each mullion and at a maximum of 450 mm between these locations. Level the tops of the packers. Fully support the sill for sliding and bi-fold units.

Install the jamb fixing angles so that the unit sits in the correct position when fitted. Screw fix at 450 mm centres. A head angle can also be installed, if this does not foul the head flashing detail.

Carefully position the unit in the opening. Pack it square and plumb, with the sill level and jambs vertical. The jamb fixing angles should be tight up against the frame, and the head and sill flashing free. The joinery items should have uniform clearance on all sides. Check that the unit is not twisted.

Fit side packers at a maximum of 100 mm from the sill and the head, and in the centre of the unit at a maximum 600 spacing. Do not install head packers, unless specified.

Fix in accordance with the manufacturers instructions or the project specification. Fix units over 1800 mm wide with a 'sliding' fixing at the head. Fixings should be hot tip galvanized steel or stainless steel in accordance with AS 1449, or silicone bronze. Do not use uncoated steel fixings.

Checking operation after fixing. If the sash binds, packers should be adjusted under sill until sash moves freely. After installation, remove racking braces where fitted.

Finishing to cladding

Dress flashing to external cladding.

Allow a minimum of 10mm clearance between the unit sill and external sill bricks.

Finishing and removing thermal bridges

To prevent air infiltration, seal the gap between the window or door frame and wall frame. Do not leave thermal bridges between the interior and exterior. Insulate gaps between the unit and the frame

Recheck that the sill and head are straight and level before fixing architraves. Frame head clearance should be a minimum 10mm. Plaster head and stile clearance should be a minimum 6mm.

Re-prime any unit immediately if the primer coat is removed during installation. Timber products should be sealed with 2 coats to all faces and edges within 30 days of delivery.

Factory finished windows should be checked for any on-site damage to the finish and repaired.

The edge of the external cladding should allow room for a seal or a weather strip. Insert a backer rod into the gap and caulk. A timber weather strip or storm mould can also be fixed to the frame.